INSURANCE.

All Indian Trade Associations are anxious to help Indian Insurance Companies.

The Bombay Chronicle

INSURANCE.

But this can be put into practice only by individuals So help Indian Insurance Companies.

FOUNDED BY SIR PHEROZSHAH M. MEHTA IN 1913.

VOL XVI NO 44— BOMBAY. TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21 1928 ONE ANNA

1884 ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH

SHIPPING.

P. & O. British India

(Incorporated in England).

MAIL & PASSENGERS SERVICE.

P. and O. SAILINGS to PLYMOUTH AND LONDON CALLING AT MARSEILLES.

All passengers are required to be in possession of passports.

Date.	Steamers	Connecting at Aden with	Tons.
1928 Feb. 25	RAJPUTANA		16,568
3 Mar.	RAZMAK	NARKUNDA	16,302
10 "	KAISAR-I-HIND		11,518
17 "	RAZMAK@†		10,602
21 "	CHINA$		7,952
24 "	RANPURA		16,601
31 "	MOOLTAN‡		20,847
7 Apr.	RANCHI		16,650
14 "	RAZMAK@		10,602
21 "	RAWALPINDI		16,619
28 "	MALOJA‡		20,847
5 May.	RAJPUTANA.		16,568
12 "	MOREA*		10,953
19 "	KAISAR-I-HIND		11,518
26 "	RAZMAK	NALDERA‡	16,088
2 June	MACEDONIA.		11,120
9 "	MALWA *		10,986
16 "	CHINA		7,952
23 "	RAZMAK	NARKUNDA x	16,572
30 "	MANTUA		10,946
7 July	RANPURA*		16,601
14 "	MOREA		10,953
21 "	RAZMAK	MOOLTAN	20,847
28 "	KAISAR-I-HIND		11,518

@To Marseilles only.

x Through steamers from Australia have limited accommodation for passengers from India.

*Through steamers from China have limited accommodation for passengers from India.

† 1st Saloon only.

$EXTRA SAILING OF S. S. CHINA AT THE FOLLOWING REDUCED RATES:—

1st Saloon to London A. £80. B. £70. C. £60
1st Saloon to Marseilles A. £72 B. £62, C. £56.
2nd Saloon to London A. £54 B. £52.
2nd Saloon to Marseilles A. £50. B. £48.

SPECIAL OFF SEASON RETURN TICKETS

First Saloon Return Tickets at Special Reduced Rates will be issued for any Mail Steamer during the period commencing from Bombay with the sailing of the S. S. MACEDONIA", on the 2nd June, 1928, and terminating with "KAISAR-I-HIND" due in Bombay on the 21st September. The fares will be as follows.—

To London and back by Sea £105
To London and back via Marseilles including P. & O. Special Train across France in both directions £120
To Marseilles and back £100

P. & O. SPECIAL TRAIN MARSEILLES—LONDON.

During the months of June, July and August the fare by this train will be reduced to £10.

SINGLE BERTH CABINS

There will be no extra charge for single berth Cabins between 1st June and 1st January.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.

Bombay to Port Said and Plymouth.

Date about.	Steamers.	Tons.
1928 23rd Feb.	MANORA	7,888
15th March	DUMANA	8,427
5th April	MANELA	8,303
3rd May	DOMALA	8,441
14th June	MANORA	7,883

P. & O. SAILINGS TO COLOMBO, STRAITS, CHINA, JAPAN and AUSTRALIA.

1928 29th Mar.	NALDERA	Colombo and Australia,
24th Apr.	DELTA	Colombo, Straits China & Japan
26th Apr.	NARKUNDA	Colombo and Australia.
24th May	MOOLTAN	Colombo and Australia.
7th June	RAWALPINDI	Colombo, Straits China and Japan
Connecting at Colombo with COMORIN		for Australia.
5th July	RAJPUTANA	Colombo, Straits China and Japan
Connecting at Colombo with MONGOLIA		for Australia.

BRITISH INDIA SAILINGS.

TO AFRICA, KARACHI, PERSIAN GULF, TUTICORIN, COLOMBO. MADRAS, CALCUTTA & RANGOON.

1928 22nd Feb.	xELLORA	Mombasa
22nd "	BARJORA	Busreh via Karachi & Persian Gulf Ports
24th "	VARSOVA	Busreh via Karachi.
25th "	CHAKLA	Karachi via Porebunder Dwarka & Cutch Mandvie.
27th "	VITA	Karachi via Port Okha & Cutch Mandvie.
29th "	KHANDALA	East & South Africa.

xExtra sailing to Mombasa only.

There will be sailings for Karachi on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays every week. Local passengers for Karachi can only proceed by the Friday sailings when accommodation is not required for passengers ex the P. & O. Mail Steamer or through Passengers to Busreh.

Terms and Rates of Freights and Passage may be arranged with

MACKINNON MACKENZIE & CO.,
Ballard Road, Fort, Bombay.

SHIPPING

N. Y. K. LINE

SINGAPORE, CHINA & JAPAN.

Steamers.	Tons.	Arrival.	Departure
Malacca Maru	5574	15 Feb.	21 Feb.
Tamatsu Maru	4646	20 "	1 Mar.
Seiyo Maru	6550	23 "	4 "
Osaka Maru	3741	25 "	8 "
*Tamba Maru	5845	1 March	15 "
Tasmania Maru	4105	7 "	18 "
Moji Maru	3757	18 "	29 "

*Proceeds to Karachi

NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA,
Canada Building, Hornby Road, Bombay.
Phone Nos. 20279, 23738. Telg. "Yusen."

THE SCINDIA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LTD.

FORTNIGHTLY SERVICES BETWEEN

1. Rangoon, Bombay, Karachi, via Malabar.
2. Rangoon, Madras, Colombo.
3. Calcutta and Karachi via Coast Ports.
4. Rangoon, Calcutta, according in demand.

For freights and other particulars apply to: Messrs. NAROTTAM MORARJEE & CO. Agents.
Ballard Estate, Bombay.

OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA O.S.K. LINE

REGULAR SERVICE TO JAPAN via SINGAPORE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI

Steamer	Arrival	Departure.
Taizan Maru	14th Feb.	21st Feb.
Sumatra Maru	14th "	24th "
Ichiyo Maru	9th "	29th "
Tsurushima M	17th "	4th Mar.
Honolulu Maru	24th "	8th "
Shingo Maru	27th "	12th "
Indo Maru	1st March	16th "
Shinnoh Maru	13th "	25th "
Celebes Maru	26th "	10th Apr.

For Particulars apply to:—
Ch. MURASE, Manager.
Phone Nos. 22150 and 25473.
Telegrams: "OSHOSEN."
Box No. 355.

COTTON TELEGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICE.

(Established under the guidance of Sheth Virjlal Ranchhordas.)

NEW YORK FUTURES.

NEW YORK FUTURES and LIVERPOOL quotations from the opening market to closing with time to time fluctuations and our Agent's opinion (Dharna) and other informations, are being daily received at this Bureau and furnished to the clients at the earliest by express telegrams any part of India.

NEW YORK CLOSING FUTURES CAN BE WIRED AFTER 2-15 A.M., after mid-night on RECEIPT OF OUR SPECIAL CABLE.

We can also furnish promptly all important information about local cotton market as per our clients instructions on commission.

We can execute forward transactions and sell ready cotton in Bombay Market.

For commission rates, deposit terms, and other particulars, please write to:—

THE MANAGER,
Cot. Tel. Inf. Service.
Opp. Central Telegraph Office,
375, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.
Tel. Add.: "COMEALONG."
Tel Nos: 22044-24241.

Income-Tax & Super-Tax

Statutory Statement of Account prepared, Audit of Books of Firms UNDERTAKEN.

B. L. THOSAR PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.
436-437, Kalbadevi Road, BOMBAY.
Tel. No. 21997.

BANKING

Punjab National Bank, Limited.

ESTABLISHED 1895.

Authorised Capital	Rs. 1,00,00,000
Issued Capital	Rs. 50,00,000
Subscribed Capital	Rs. 50,00,000
Paid Up Capital	Rs. 31,07,401
Reserve Funds	Rs. 23,00,000

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

1. Raja Govind Lal (Chairman).
2. Hon'ble Sir Manmohandass Ramji.
3. Lala Kishen Prasad.

HEAD OFFICE: 47, THE MALL, LAHORE.

BRANCHES:

Abohar	Hyderabad (Sind)	Montegomery (Montgomery)
Allahabad	Jullunder	Okara (dist.)
Amritsar	Jaranwalla	Peshawar Can
Amballa City	Jamma	Peshawar City
Amballa Cant	Jhelum City	Patiala
Bombay	Jhang	Quetta
Cawnpore	(Maghiana)	Rawalpindi
Culcutta	Karachi	Sangla Hill
Delhi	Kasur	Sargodha
D. I. Khan	Lahore City	Sialkot City
Ferozepore	Lyallapur	Simla
Gujranwalla	Ludhiana	Srinagar
Gojra	Meerut City	
Hafizabad	Multan City	
Hoshiarpur		

LONDON AGENTS:
THE MIDLAND BANK LTD.
AMERICAN AGENTS:
AMERICAN EXCHANGE IRVING TRUST COMPANY.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS are opened and interest allowed at 3 per cent. from January to June and 2-1/2 per cent. from July to December, at Bombay on a minimum daily balance of Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,00,000.

FIXED DEPOSITS are received for 12 months and shorter periods at rates of interest which can be ascertained on application.

SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS:—Sums as low as Rs. 10 received and interest allowed at 4 per cent per annum.

LOANS OVERDRAFTS and CASH CREDITS.—The Bank grants accommodation on terms to be arranged against approved securities.

CHEQUES, HUNDIES, BILLS, etc., of outstations are bought, collected and discounted.

For other particulars and rules of business apply to:—

S. DATTA,
Manager.

Sassoon House,
Churchgate Street, Bombay.

"Second To None"

Mr. RANGANATH RAO, of Ranipet writes:—

"I had occasions to use the world famed ATANK NIGRAH PILLS..... I can assure you, the medicine is SECOND TO NONE."

The Atank Nigrah Pills

Cure Brain-fag, Constipation, nervous debility and other mental as well as physical disorders.

Price—Rupee ONE (32 Pills)

For a full list of all our preparations write to:—

Atank Nigrah Pharmacy,
JAMNAGAR (Kathiawar)

SAVE EYES

of all troubles, even Cataract, Glaucoma, Granular lids, etc., cured Without Knife, by our nature's remedy Cocoanut Brand "LOTUS HONEY"—genuine and purest in market. Cure guaranteed. Dram Re. 2-8, 2 drams Rs. 4. Postage extra. Ask particulars.

NEW FORMULA CO., Kandi, Bengal.

Tel.—Ulcer, Kandi.
Agents:—KEMP & CO., Charni Road, Bombay
J. TIRTH & CO., Bunder Road, Karachi

INSURANCE

Western India Life Insurance Co., Ltd.

HEAD OFFICE—Satara City.

PROGRESS OF THE COMPANY

Valuation	Year.	Surplus disclosed.
First ..	1917	Rs. 11,532
Second ..	1920	Rs. 27,737
Third ..	1923	Rs. 1,16,544

No other Company started within 25 years could show equal results at the same age.

Excellent opportunity for reliable energetic men of position and ability to represent the Company.

For agency and other particulars please apply to:—

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
Satara City

The Bombay Chronicle

BUSINESS NOTICE.

BUSINESS communications of every kind (advertisements, changes of address, etc.) should be addressed to the MANAGER. Advertisements intended for insertion in the next day's paper must reach the office not later than 5 p.m.

ALL REMITTANCES should be made payable to the "Bombay Chronicle" and cheques crossed.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIBERS whose copies of the "Bombay Chronicle" are delayed in delivery will facilitate enquiry into the cause of the irregularity by noting the date of the paper on the wrapper and sending it to the Manager.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Daily Edition.

	Local. Rs. as.	Mofussil. Rs. as.
1 Year	20 0	25 0
6 Months	10 0	12 8
3 Months	5 0	6 4
1 Month	1 14	2 4

Subscription to Foreign Countries Rs. 50 per year.

SINGLE COPY ONE ANNA.

SUNDAY EDITION.

	Local.	Mofussil.	Foreign.
Yearly	Rs. 8/8.	Rs. 4.	Rs. 7

PAYMENTS STRICTLY IN ADVANCE.

The Sunday Edition must be subscribed for not less than one year.

SINGLE COPY ONE ANNA.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers who do not receive their copy of "The Chronicle" in time are requested kindly to furnish the following information to the Manager, Subscription Department:—

Name of Subscriber .....
Address .....
Register No. .....
Date of paper .....
Time of delivery .....

When You Spend so much for Your Clothes

why not be certain that they are made by artistic tailor

ARAUJO FERNANDES & CO.,
MERCHANT TAILORS.
PRINCESS STREET BOMBAY

INSURANCE

THE UNIVERSAL

FIRE & GENERAL

INSURANCE COMPANY, Ltd.

(INCORPORATED IN INDIA)

FIRE, MARINE, MOTOR CAR

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

UNIVERSAL BUILDING,
CAWASJI PATEL STREET, FORT, BOMBAY

Managing Agents: M. KANJI & CO.

RESPECTABLE AND INFLUENTIAL AGENTS WANTED FOR UNREPRESENTED DISTRICTS.

INDIA PROVIDENT CO., LTD.

SPLENDID BONUS 7½% of the premium refunded as Bonus.
Funds above Rs. 1 LACS.

The Safest Office for Life Insurance for the poor. Premium Re. 1 or 8 as. per mon Active and honest agents required on liberal remuneration. Apply at once to SECRETARY, 29, Grey Street, CALCUTTA or to

Messrs. R. M. DIVADKAR & Co., Chief Agents, Esoof Building, D'Lisi Street, Mazagon, Bombay

ORIENTAL

GOVERNMENT SECURITY LIFE ASSURANCE CO., LTD.

ESTABLISHED 1874.

1926 Another Year of Record Progress

NEW ASSURANCES.	1924 Rs. 2,37,34,000	
	1925 Rs. 2,96,42,000	Increase Rs. 59,08,000
	1926 Rs. 3,91,39,000	Increase Rs. 94,97,000

THE FUNDS increased by Rs. 42 LAKHS to Rs. 7,38,80,000.
THE PREMIUM INCOME now exceeds Rs. 1,05,30,000 per annum.

Prospective Policyholders are urged to communicate without delay with:—
Mr. H. EDWIN JONES, F.F.A., A.I.A., Manager, Oriental Buildings, Bombay or to any of the Company's Offices.

INSURE WITH:—

THE PIONEERS OF LIFE ASSURANCE WORK IN BENGAL

THE HINDU MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE Ltd

Trustee—Govt. Official Trustee.
No Share-holders—(Established 1891)—No. Capitalists.
CLAIMS PAID OVER Rs. 5,00,000 COMPARED WITH OTHERS, ITS Great Age, Security, Management and Absolutely The LOWEST RATES
INSURANCE OVER Rs. 4,00,000.
No promise of Reversionary Bonus. But Cash Bonus in the shape of difference on premium with the bonus giving offices with every payment of premium.

For particulars Apply to:—
P. C. RAY, M. A., B. L., Secretary, 285/10, Bowbazar St. CALCUTTA
AGENCY APPLICATION INVITED

CLASSIFIELD ADVTS.

Fill up your **WANTS** here on payment of

Rupee **ONE**

for First Twenty Words

AND

ONE ANNA

For each additional word.

Terms:—CASH with order.

INSTRUCTIONS:

The full name and address of the advertiser is required, not necessarily for publication.

Advertisers who do not wish their names and addresses published will be given a Box number. The words "Apply Box No.——Advertisement Department, "Bombay Chronicle," to be paid for.

Answers to advertisements should be addressed as follows:—Box Number——Advertisement Department, "Bombay Chronicle" Office, Bombay.

Unclaimed replies to advertisements are destroyed after one month.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

WANTED—AGENTS to secure orders for our hand-loom made goods. For terms apply with one anna stamp to RAM KRISHNA AND BROS., Chowa, Caunanore.

A R727

AGENTS for the sale of Carbonic Acid Gas manufactured from pure Coke are required for Bombay City and the Bombay Presidency. For particulars and terms please apply to Messrs. PARRY & CO Post Box No. 12, Madras.

A 29977

WANTED.—INFLUENTIAL AGENTS for the sale of "Bombay Chronicle", Daily and Sunday Editions. Apply for the devised Terms of Agency to the MANAGER, "Bombay Chronicle", "Hari" Building, Old Custom House Road, Fort, Bombay.

WANTED

WANTED—Secondhand DYEING JIGS and a HYDROEXTRACTOR. Send full particulars including lowest prices expected to Box No. 2100, Advt. Dept., "Bombay Chronicle."

N 29942

PROFESSION

FOR ALL PROBLEMS.—regarding Fortune, consult Prof. N. PURUSHOTTAM, Fortune Teller & Evil Counteracter. Empire Building, Hornby Road, Bombay. Trial Form free on application.

PHOTOGRAPHY.

PHOTOGRAPHS.

Photographs of general interest are invited from readers from all parts of India for publication in "The Chronicle." Preference will be given to topical photographs on subjects of political, general, engineering, scientific or other interest. Accepted photographs will be paid for on publication, at usual rates.

The Editor undertakes no responsibility for the return of unaccepted photographs, but every endeavour will be made to return rejected photographs, accompanied by stamped addressed envelopes. All photographs must be sent to the

EDITOR,
'Bombay Chronicle,"
Custom House Road, Bombay.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—LIONS FAT, absolutely guaranteed PURE and FRESH, Price Rupees Twenty two per pound delivered immediately Thomas Cook, Bombay. Apply ABDUL WAHID, Dealer in Wild Animals, Nairobi, Kenya Colony.

N 29946

SPORTS COATS.

Made to measure from Kakomi Drill. Just the Coat for shikar. From Rs. 8|14|- each.

KAKOMI TWILL.

Specially manufactured for tropical shirts. A sturdy fabric that defies the Indian Dhobi. From As. 8|6|- per yard — 30" wide.

COTTON TWEEDS.

Light weight cotton materials, similar in appearance to Woollen Tweeds. Ideal for summer suits. Wear splendidly. From As. 13|6 per yard. 27" wide.

KAKOMI SHIKAR CLOTH.

A specially woven sun proof material for sportsmen's coat, etc. Rs. 1|12|6 per yard. 27" wide.

KAKOMI KHAKI DRILLS.

In two standard shades of Khaki. Very strong and serviceable. From As. 11 per yard 26" wide.

KAKOMI SHIRTS.

Smartly cut in excellent wearing Kakomi fabrics. Striped Neglege Shirts, with soft double cuffs. From Rs. 4|- each. Polo Collars to match at As. 8 each. White Shirts, with soft or starched cuffs Rs. 3|4|- each. Khaki Shirts (tennis style) ideal for Shikar Rs. 2|14|- each. Write for samples of the complete range.

KAKOMI TENT SPECIALISTS.

Whether its a Marquee or a Bath Tent, a Tent for the Hills or for the Stable, get in touch with us. We are specialists in Tent Manufacture of every description. Best quality fabrics and fittings only.

SLEEP IN KAKOMI FLANNELETTE.

Kakomi Flannelette is soft and fleecy and admirably suited for pyjama wear. Get some suits this winter and sleep in cosy comfort. Samples on request, free.

Blue Striped ..... As. 15 per yard.
Red Striped ..... As. 11 per yard.
Plain White ..... As. 13|6 per yard.

For full particulars and prices of all Kakomi Manufactures write to:—

THE CAWNPORE COTTON MILLS CO.,
CAWNPORE.

K. 2.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS, Legal and Public Notifications are published in these columns at the following rates:—

	Per Column Inch per Insertion.
1st Insertion	Rs. 7-8-0
2nd Insertion	Rs. 5-8-0
3rd Insertion	Rs. 4-8-0
4th and Subsequent Insertion	Rs. 3-8-0

Mofussil advertisers are requested to send remittance in advance and state clearly, whether they wish to insert their advertisements in these columns or in the classified short advertisement columns.

AHMEDABAD MUNICIPALITY.

NOTICE.

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED for the post of the CHIEF OFFICER on a salary commencing from Rs. 800|- rising by annual increment of Rs. 75|- to Rs. 1,250|- with Motor allowance of Rs. 100|- per mensem. The selected candidate will be subject to the rules of the Municipality as regards fixity of tenure, travelling allowance and privileges regarding leave and leave allowance. The Municipality has a Provident Fund Scheme the subscription to which is compulsory. Intending candidates should apply to the PRESIDENT, Ahmedabad Municipality, stating their age, nationality, educational qualifications, experience etc., on or before the 10th March 1928.

(Sd.) VALLABHBHAI J. PATEL,
President,
Ahmedabad Municipality.

Municipal Office, Ahmedabad,
Dated, 18th February 1928.

29974

PUBLIC NOTICES.

NOTICE.

STATE BALL AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

CARRIAGES and MOTOR CARS of GUESTS attending the State Ball at Government House on Tuesday, the 21st February, 1928, will enter by the LOWER GATE, WALKESHWAR ROAD, and will leave by the Upper Gate to be parked outside Government House Grounds. The departure from the Ball will also be by the LOWER GATE.

2. On arrival at the platform, a ticket bearing a number will be issued to the occupant and one bearing a similar number will be affixed to the conveyance.

3. On departure, as conveyances come up, the numbers will be called, and should owners not be present on the platform their conveyances will be sent round.

4. Guests coming in motor cars will be well advised to have licensed chauffeurs in charge of their cars, as cars ordinarily will be parked in the order in which they arrive and the later the arrival the farther will they be from Government House.

5. As the lower drive is very narrow and there are many horse carriages no vehicle should overtake another vehicle while passing up the lower drive towards Government House.

P. A. KELLY,
Commissioner of Police.

Head Police Office:
Bombay, 17th February, 1928.

29969

TENDERS.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY

TENDERS FOR THE EXTENSION TO THE REINFORCED CONCRETE PLATFORM ROOF OF POONA STATION.

THE Agent, G.I.P. Railway, Victoria Terminus, Bombay, invites tenders for an addition of a further five bays to the existing reinforced concrete up platform roof at Poona, the roof to cover an area of approximately 6400 sq. ft.

2. The prescribed form of tender with conditions specification and drawings on which the tenders will be received, can be obtained from the Railway's Chief Engineer, Bombay, on payment of Rs. 5 per set which amount will not be returned. Tenders must be submitted on the prescribed form and the envelopes enclosing them must be sealed and endorsed "Tender for the extension to the reinforced concrete platform roof at Poona."

3. Tenders will be received at the Agent's Office up to 3 p.m. (S.T.) on THURSDAY, the 22nd March, 1928.

4. The result of the tender will be published in the Indian Trade Journal.

T. G. RUSSELL,
Agent, G. I. P. Railway.

Bombay, dated 17th February, 1928.

29966

GOVERNMENT OF BIKANER.

TENDERS ARE INVITED for supply of annual requirements of Medical Stores, Medicines, etc. for the year 1928-29 and will be received by the undersigned till March 20th, 1928.

Copies of tenders could be had from the undersigned on payment of tender fee of Rs. 2|- (Rupees two only).

BENI SHIAM WAHIE,
Secretary,
Stores Purchase Committee,
Bikaner Government.

Bikaner, 10th February, 1928.

29938

BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY.

TENDERS for the supply of one (Electric) motor driven air compressor for the Municipal Air Compressor Station at Colaba, will be received upto 1 p.m. (Bombay Time) on the 16th day of April, 1928.

Tenders should be addressed to the Municipal Commissioner and should be delivered at the office of the Chief Accountant with a deposit of Rs. 1,000|-.

Forms of specification, etc., will be issued to any one deputed to receive them by the Deputy Executive Engineer, Mechanical Branch, Municipal Workshops, Foras Road, Bombay, who will, on application, give any further information that may be required.

(Sd.) T. K. RODDAN.
(Executive Engineer.)

Municipal Offices.
Date: 15th February, 1928.

29970

PUBLIC NOTICES.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

RECONSTRUCTION OF PLATFORM ROOFS AT KARJAT.

The Agent, G.I.P. Railway, Victoria Terminus, Bombay invites tenders for the supply and erection of steelwork, etc., required for platform sheds at Karjat.

The prescribed form of tender, with conditions, specification and drawings on which the tenders will be received can be obtained from the Railway's Chief Engineer, Bombay on payment of Rs. 10 per set which amount will not be returned.

Tenders will be received at the Agent's Office upto 3 p.m. (S.T.) on MONDAY, the 12th March, 1928.

The result of the tender will be published in the 'Indian Trade Journal'.

T. G. RUSSELL,
Agent,
G.I.P. Railway.

Bombay, 17-2-1928.

29965

LEGAL NOTICES.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY.

ORDINARY ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION.

Suit No. 2419 of 1927.

Messrs. POHOOMULL BROTHERS, a firm carrying on business at Carnac Bridge, without the Fort of Bombay. Plaintiffs.

versus.

(1) ROWJIBHAI MANUBHAI & Co., a firm, carrying on business at Kazi Syed Street, without the Fort., Bombay, (2) B. BUDHANI, (3) N. V. SETH, (4) O. Arjun, (5) L. LADHA, (6) S.D. GANDHI, all of Bombay, Hindu Inhabitants, residing at Dana Bunder, without the Fort, until recently carrying on business in the name and style of N. Poonjaseth & Sons. (7) GOVINDJI MOWJI, of Bombay, Hindu Inhabitant, residing at Samuel Street, without the Fort, Bombay, (8) CHHOTALAL VIRJI & Co., a firm, carrying on business at Mandvi without the Fort of Bombay Defendants.

To,

N. V. SETH,
O. ARJUN,
L. LADHA,
S. D. GANDHI,

The Defendants 3 to 6 abovenamed.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Plaintiffs have filed this suit praying inter alia that each of the Defendant abovenamed including yourselves may be ordered to hand over and deliver possession to the plaintiffs of the goods mentioned in the Plaint respectively wrongfully taken possession of by him or them or to pay to the Plaintiffs the value of such goods or such respective sums as the Hon'ble Court may deem fit as and by way of damages for the wrongful detention of the said goods, for appointment of a Receiver of the goods, costs and for further and other reliefs. The hearing of the said Suit has been fixed for the 22nd day of March 1928, when you are reqnired to attend at the High Court, Bombay at 11-15 O'Clock in the forenoon (S. T.) in person or by an Advocate and that in default of your appearance on that day the suit will be heard and determined in your absence. You are required to file a Written Statement of your defence and serve a copy on the Plaintiffs or their attorneys within 4 weeks from the date of the Publication of this Summons. In default the Suit will be set down to be heard as undefended.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 1927.

Messrs. KANGA & CO.,
Plaintiffs' Attorneys.

29978

AUCTION SALES.

MENESSE & CO,

AUCTION SALE OF UNCLAIMED CARGOES OF THE BOMBAY PORT TRUST DOCKS.

In accordance with Section 64 of the Bombay Port Trust Act of 1879 and as from time to time amended and under instructions from the Manager, Bombay Port Trust Docks, Messrs. MENESSE & CO., will sell by Public Auction on TUESDAY, the 21st February, 1928, at 2 p.m. in the Liquor Warehouse at Alexandra Dock the following goods:—

Medicine, Toilet papers, Oil, Advertising side post, wire rope, 3 Rolls paper, Auto accessories, Musical Instruments (9 Gramophones), Springs, Electric appliances, Medical apparatus, Spectacles, Glasses, etc., etc.

MENESSE & CO.

AMMUSEMENTS.

6 Reels
"FELIX MISSES HIS SWISS." Pathe Super Gazette.
Time: 6-15, 8-15 & 10 p.m.
PATHE CINEMA Royal Opera House.

THE
CAPITOL
TO-NIGHT at 6-30 & 10 P.M.

A sensational photo-play that was the topic of comment in the newspapers of Calcutta

THE TRIUMPH OF THE RAT

Featuring
IVOR NOVELLO
Also: NOVEL PANTOMIME
'DREAM FANTASTIQUE'
Presented by
EL RADIANTS
A VAUDEVILLE ACT
Direct from the Palladium, London.
Not a picture but a stage performance.

EMPIRE THEATRE
TO-DAY, 6 and 9-30 P. M.
TO-DAY, 6 and 9-30 P. M.
TO-DAY, 6 and 9-30 P. M.

The Picture that no language can do justice to

THE BIG PARADE

Story of a Soldier boy on Active service, and of a Girl who made him forget the Grim reality of war.

Featuring the GREAT STARS
JOHN GILBERT
and
RENEE ADOREE
Augmented Orchestra and Stage effects.
Booking at the Theatre
FREE LIST SUSPENDED.

CINEMA MAJESTIC
GIRGAUM
Continues for the 2nd Week
Kohinoor's Classic of the Screen
THE SHEPHERD KING
THE SHEPHERD KING
THE SHEPHERD KING
featuring
RAJA SANDOW & YECBAL
Intrigue! Love! Stolen Moments and Amid it all one beautiful girl and a man fighting for Love
DAILY at 5—7—9 & 11 P. M.
TUESDAY 21st Feb. EXTRA SHOW at 3 pm

Natyakala Pravartak Sangit Mandali
NEW SENSATIONAL DRAMA WITH NEW DRESSES!
(In Hindi Urdu)
SONEKI CHIDIYA
SONEKI CHIDIYA
(By Munshi Abbas Ali Saheb
at the
CORONATION THEATRE
GRANT ROAD.
TO-DAY & TO-NIGHT
TWO PERFORMANCES at 3-30 & 9 p.m.
Book your seats immediately at the Theatre
Prop. G. B. BHATE.

Digitized with financial assistance from the Government of Maharashtra on 11 April, 2017

World Cotton Situation

NEW YORK, LIVERPOOL & BOMBAY MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

LONG LIQUIDATION DEPRESSED 12 POINTS—SHORT COVERING AND TRADE BUYING—VALUES RISE 23 POINTS—FUTURES 8 TO 11 POINTS HIGHER.

New York, Feb. 18.

The New York futures market opened at a decline of 7 points and ruled easy on long liquidation and speculative selling. When prices established a decline of 12 points below yesterday's closing prices a rally set in which was maintained upto the close. Shorts covered and trade bought on reports of absence of rains in parts of Texas, where farm work is delayed. The close was steady at a rise of 8 to 11 points. Spot Cotton rose 15 points to 18.50c.

The New Orleans futures market ruled steady and closed 8 points higher. Spot cotton prices improved 8 points to 18.08c.

PRIVATE CABLES.

Reuter:—'Market early declined on speculative selling, but rallied later on trade buying and covering by shorts."

New York Cables) Market advanced in consequence of no rain in Texas officially except Galvaston. Little farm work done in South Texas so far."

from New York—"Doubt any important decline from present level. Think likely market gradually work higher."

Messrs. Jaagley and Co. have received following cable from America:—"Offerings small—Speculative selling off by trade buying."

Gann's Cable:—'Cotton is in a narrow trading range with definite trend indicated. It may several weeks before it gets out of the deadlock. Trade for quick scalping market. Buy around 17.70 and sell at 18.50. Expect top to be reached on Monday."

Messrs. Umrigar and Vesugar's New York friends Messrs. A Norden and Co write under date 18th inst. as under:—'Market appears well liquidated."

N. Y. JULY FLUCTUATIONS.

New York, Feb. 18

Previous Close 18.06.
10 A.M. 17.99—.07 opening.
10-11 A.M. 17.94—.12 lowest
11-54 A.M. 18.17+.11 highest.
12 Noon 18.16+.10 close.

AMERICAN COTTON FIGURES.

Bombay, Feb. 18.

U. S. P. Bales.	1927-28	1926-27
Visible to date 18-2-28	6891000	10545000
Do. Yesterday do	12000	28000
Ports to date do	4757000	7033000
Stock at Ports 17-2-28	2223000	2764000
Do. Interior Towns do	1049000	1304000
Do. Liverpool 17-2-28	841000	1313000
Total Supply 17-2-28	5313000	6926000
Quantity in Sight do	1156000	15320000

PRODUCE RECEIPTS

Bombay, Feb. 20.

Receipts of various raw produce into Bombay upto noon the 19th inst.

	cwts.
Wheat	2,620
Linseed	1,860
Rape, Rai & Mustardseeds	2,932
Gingellyseeds	5,117
Poppyseed	6
Groundnuts	38,825
Castorseed	9,959
Rice	1,778
Myraboilams	2,426
Cottonseed	7,414
Gram	2,112
Joowar	600
Barley	513
Bajree	206
Coal	2,637 tons.

OIL SEEDS TRADING ASSOCIATION.

Bombay, Feb. 20.

Castorseeds Delivery May Opening 50/-, highest 50/1, Closing 49/7.

Cottonseeds Delivery May Opening 4/12, closing 4/12.

Groundnut Seeds, Delivery February opening 58/3, Lowest 57/15, Closing 58/-, Groundnut Seeds Delivery May Opening 58, Closing 59/6.

SUGAR MARKET REPORT.

Bombay, Feb. 20.

The Market has ruled steady to-day with following closing Quotations:

Fine White Java Sugar:—
Ready Rs. 14/ per cwt.
Transhipment Rs. 8/13 per cwt FBH.
Shipment January Rs. 8/12 per cwt FBH.
Shipt. Feb-March Rs. 8/14 per cwt FBH.
Shipt. July-Aug-Sept. Rs. 9/0 per cwt FBH.

Sugar C.I.F.:—
January Rs. 8/14 per cwt FBH.
Feb-March Rs. 9/ per cwt FBH.
July-Aug-Sept. Rs. 9/8 per cwt FBH.
Tone:—Steady.

LIVERPOOL.

ABSENCE OF SELLING PRESSURE—SCATTERED SELLING ABSORBED BY TRADE—SPOT SALES 3000 BALES—FUTURES 7 TO 8 POINTS LOWER.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 18.

The Liverpool futures market opened quiet at a decline of 10 points. There was absence of selling pressure. Scattered speculative sales were absorbed by trade and the session finished at a decline of 7 to 8 points with steady tone. Spot cotton prices declined 5 points to 10.20d per lb. and sales amounted 3,000 bales.

Empire futures closed 6 points down and Egyptians closed at a decline of 4 to 5 points.

PRIVATE CABLES.

Bombay, Feb. 20.

Messrs. Thomas Smith & Co. have received the following cable of 18th instant from their Liverpool friends:—

"Prefer buying on decline. Think new crop neighbourhood 9d. reasonable."

Hornby Hemelryk & Co:—"Spinners' takings so far this season are 9,724,000.

LIVERPOOL WEEKLY COTTON STATISTICS.

Liverpool, Feb. 18.

The weekly Cotton Statistics as compiled by the Statistical Department of the Liverpool Cotton Exchange are as follow:—

	week ending 18/2/28 Bales.
Total in Sight	11,565,000
Egyptian Cotton Visible Supply	508,000
East Indian Cotton Visible Supply	220,000
American Cotton Visible Supply	5,313,000
Other Cotton Visible Supply	233,000
Total Sales	35,370
East Indian Cotton Sales	150
East Indian Cotton Stock	16,000
East Indian Cotton Forwarded	4,200
East Indian Cotton Actual Export	200
East Indian Cotton Imports	2,000
East Indian Cotton Speculation	—
American Cotton Afloat	175,000
East Indian Cotton Afloat	38,000
Total Afloat	266,000
Takings of World's Spinners American Cotton	246,000

BOMBAY STATISTICS.

Receipts from 1st Sept. to 16th Feb.	..	15,73,557
Same time last season		16,21,028
Exports from 1st Sept. to 16th Feb.—	1927|28	1926|27
United Kingdom	.. 28,479	2,980
Continent	.. 2,72,417	1,38,670
China	.. 6,801	1,06,662
Japan	.. 4,22,999	494,867
Coast Ports	.. 13,867	7,269
U. S. A.	1,175	7,266
Total	.. 7,45,738	7,50,649
Total exports by Rail, 1st Sept. 1927 to 16th Feb. 1928	..	44,011
Estimated Mill consumption in Bombay from 1st Sept. 1927 to 16th Feb. 1928	..	3,86,864
Same period last year		4.16,142
Estimated stock of raw cotton held by exporters, dealers and Mills in Bombay on 16th Feb.		8,18,367
Same time last year		7,12,220

PUNJAB PRODUCE QUOTATIONS.

(The Shri Krishna Bombay Trading Co., Ltd.)

Muktsar, (Punjab), Feb. 18.

FORWARD BARGAINS:—

Wheat Har	4	3	0
Gram Jeth	3	6	0
Barley Jeth	3	1	6
Cottonseed Phagan	4	1	0
Cottonseed Har	4	5	0
Cottonseed Bisakh	4	1	6
Gowara Phagan	2	9	6
Gowara Bisakh	2	11	0
Rapeseed Bisakh	6	11	0

READY:—

Wheat	4	4	0	4	12	0
Gram	3	8	0	4	0	0
Cottonseed				4	0	0
Gowara				2	10	0
Rapeseed				7	8	0

LONDON DISCOUNT.

Bombay, Feb. 20.

3 months 4-3|16 p.c.
6 Months 4-3|16 p.c.
Bank of England Rate 4-1|2 p.c.
Money Call 6-1|4 p.c.
One|Three Months 5-1|2 to 5 p.c.
Six months 4-1|2 p.c.
Tone of Money Market: Steady.
Imperial Bank rate 7 p.c.

BOMBAY.

CONSIDERABLE BUYING—ABSENCE OF SELLERS—PROFESSIONAL BUYING—CLOSED FIRM.

Bombay, Feb. 20.

Following a small rise of 10 points in New York futures, the local market opened at Rs. 360 for Broach A.-M. delivery. There was absence of sellers and prices gradually rose to Rs. 363 on short covering and commission houses buying. There was slight profit-taking at this level and prices were steady at Rs. 362-8. Liverpool opened 7 points higher, slightly better than expectation and prices at 4-30 p.m. were as under:—

F G M G Broach A.-M. 362-8.
F G M G Broach J.-A. 365-12.
F G M G Bengal March 303.
F G M G Bengal May 305-8.
Fine M G Bengal March 334.
Fine M G Bengal May 334-8.

SEWRI MARKET.

Bombay, Feb. 20.

The forward market opened at Rs. 362/ and ruled firm on better Sampin rates and continued buying. Professional operators was reported big buyer. The market was quoted at the highest of the day at 6-30 p.m. with quotations as under:—

FG. MG. Broach A/M.	363/8
FG. MG. Broach J/A.	367
FG. MG. Bengal Mar.	302
FG. MG. Bengal May	304/8
Fine MG. Oomra Mar.	336/8
Fine MG. Oomra May	336

SAMPIN QUOTATIONS.

Bombay, Feb. 20.

February	210.90+3.80
May	217.50+4.20
August	221.80+2.90

DAILY ROOM RATE

Bombay, Feb. 20.

Bengal 201 March.
Bengal 203 May.
Broach 362 A. M.
Broach 366 J./A.
Oomra 334 March.
Oomra 332 May.

SPOT RATES.

Bengal	324	317	310	303	295
S. P.	322	315	308	301	293
Rajputana	324	317	310	303	295
P. A.		418	411	404	
Oomra No. 3	348	341	331	324	
C. P. No. 1	378	371	364	354	
C. P. No. 2	363	356	349	339	
Khandesh		336	326	316	306
Muthia			321	311	297

EAST INDIAN COTTON

BREUL AND CO'S REPORT

RECEIPTS INTO BOMBAY.

Bombay, Feb. 20.
Since 1st September.

In full-pressed Bales.
18-2-28

	This year.	Last year.	
Khandesh	1,737	205,193	285,519
Central India	2,243	187,268	199,056
Barsi and Nagar	567	200,949	155,809
Hyderabad-Gaorani	385	83,283	52,248
Berar	3,588	417,666	436,418
Central Provinces	1,395	178,958	163,857
Total Oomras	9,865	1,273,320	1,292,907
Dholera	1,148	64,871	60239
N.-W. Provinces		60,559	51,366
Rajputana	317	27,254	25,047
Sind Punjab	342	113,009	80,651
Broach		2,615	1,527
Coompta & Dharwar		3,976	20,926
Westerns-Northerns		3,808	9,337
Cocoanada			395
Tinnevelly & Cambodia		8,018	4,626
Persian		3,294	2,874
American		22,096	85,608
Egyptian & African	82	11,857	22,242
Comilla, Burma & other sorts		64	50
Total	11,806	1,594,018	1,658,149

EXPORTS FROM BOMBAY.

1st Sept. to 16th Feb.

In full-pressed Bales.
18-2-28

	This year.	Last year.
Europe	6,383	302,071	141,851
Japan & China	3,900	429,800	601,520
Coast Ports	50	13,867	7,269
Un-country by Rail		44,011	47,641
Afloat in harbour for Europe			
China & Japan		13,752	43,235
Total	10,333	803,501	841,525

READY COTTON QUOTATIONS.

Bombay, Feb. 20.

	Ready Red leafy. Average.	Ready	Delivery Contract March.
Bengal Superine	310/15		
Bengal Fine	310	300	+6
Bengal FG.	300	290	
Sindh-Punjab Fine	310	300	
Sindh-Punjab FG.	300	290	
Wardha-Hingh. Fine	355/60	350	

BULLION MARKET

The Bombay Bullion Brokers' Association Limited.

Bombay, Feb. 20.

GOLD.

Ready	21	7	3
Falguna	21	7	9
Chaitra	21	8	6
Narandas Motilal Native Gold Bars touch 96, 97, 98, 99	21	7	3
National City	21	9	6

SILVER.

Ready	59	11	6
London Ready		26-1/8	
Forward		26-3/16	
London—Shanghai			
Opening	2	7-1/8	
Opening	2	7-1/8	
New York Cent		5713/8	

	Op.	Hi.	Lo.	Closing
Falguna	59/10 6	59/10/6	59/10/6	59/10/6
Chitra	59/12/6	59/12/6	59/12/6	59/12/6

Tone of London Market. Quiet but steady. China sold. Buyers scarce. We do not expect much further decline.

MONEY MARKET.

OPENING EXCHANGING QUOTATIONS

Bombay, Feb. 20.

B C RATES:—
T T 1|5 29|32
D D 1|5 15|16.

LONDON:—
Banks Selling T T 1|5 15|16 to 15th Mar.
Bank's selling D D 1|5 31|32
Banks Selling T T 1|5 29|32 to 15th Apr.
Banks Selling T T 1|5-7|8 April|May.
Bank's buying T T 1|6.
Bank's buying D D 1|6 1|32.
Bank's buying 3 Mos 1|6 1|4 Feb.
Bank's buying 3 Mos 1|6 7|32 March.

NEW YORK:—
Bank's selling T T 275.
Bank's buying T T 273-1|2.
Bank's buying D D 272-1|2.
Bank's buying 3 Mos 268-1|2.

PARIS:—
Bank's selling D D 915.
Bank's buying D D 940
Bank's buying 3 Mos 955.

JAPAN:—
Bank's selling T T 129.
Bank's buying 60 Days 126.

HONGKONG:—
Banks Selling D D 137-1|4.

SHANGHAI:—
Bank's selling D D 175.

SINGAPORE:—
Bank's selling D D 157.

JAVA:—
Bank's selling D D 90-1|4.

CROSS RATES:—
New York|London 4. 87 1|2 18th inst.
Shanghai|London 2-7 1|4 20th inst.
London|Japan 1|11 1|8 18th inst.
London|Paris 124.00 18th inst.
Bank's Selling T T 1|5 29|32 to 15th Mar.
London|Belgium 35.00 18th inst.
London|Switzerland 25.34 18th inst.
London|Italy 92.05 18th inst.
Tone of Sterling Exchange: Steady.
Gold 18th inst. £ 4.4.11 1|2 17th inst. £4.4.11 1|4.
Silver London Ready 18th inst. 26 1|16 17th inst. 26 1|4.
Silver London Forward 18th inst. 26 3|16 17th inst. 26 5|16.
Silver New York Ready 18th inst. 57 5|16 17th inst. 57 7|16.
London Discounts 3 mos. 18th inst. 4 3|16 p.c. 17th inst. 4 3|16 p.c.
London Discounts 6 mos. 18th inst. 4 3|16 p.c. 17th inst. 4 3|16 p.c.
Imperial Bank Rate 7 p.c. Bank of England Rate 4 1|2 p.c.
Money: Inter Bank Call 6 1|4 p.c. mos. 5 1|2 p.c. 6 mos. 5 p.c. 12 mos. 4 1|2 p.c.
Tone: Steady.

Nagpur Fine	355/60	350	+25
Yeotmal Fine	35/	340/42	
Arvi Fine	350	340/42	+15
Amraoti Fine	335/40	323/25	
Khamgaon Akola Fine	335/37	315/18	+1
Mulkapur Fine	329/30	310/12	
Khandesh Fine	318/20	305/8	—10
Muthia Fine		300	
Muthia FG.			—26/7
Nanded/Purna FG. GS.	370		
Purna FG. GS.	340	315/18	
Parbhani/Sailu FG. GS.		315/18	
Indore/Ujjain Fine	355	322/25	
Burwah Sanavad Fine	335	318/20	
Broach FG.			
Broach Fine			+15
Westerns MG.		345	
Westerns HG.			
Cambodia	460		
Miraj/Sangli	400		
Compta Good	405		+32
Dholera			
Kadi/Viramgam			

READY COTTON SALES.

Bombay, Feb. 20.

100 Currimbhai Nanded 380
100 Currimbhai Latur 362
100 Prehlad Mill Umri 435
100 James Finlay Mill Sind American 468
100 E. K. Vasanjee Bhavnagar 307
100 Hiriee Nenshi Amraoti 336
100 N. Rajaram & Co. Chalisgaon 300
100 B. Karshandas & Co. Arvi 358
100 B. Karshandas & Co. Veraval 303
100 Breul & Co. Yeotmal 330
200 G. Y. Kesha Khandesh 320
900 Japan T. & Co. Sailu 320/325
100 Japan T. & Co. C P No. 1 376

STOCKS AND SHARES

TATA IRONS QUIET

FIRMNESS IN SECURITIES

MILL SHARES.

Bombay, Feb. 18.

Cotton Mill shares ruled quiet but steady with a small business. Prices fluctuated within a narrow limit and closed featureless except Bleaching where mild enquiry was in existence.

MISCELLANEOUS

In this section there was nothing doing except small liquidation in Tata Iron shares on reports of sectional strike at Jamshedpur. There was scattered demand for Indian Cement shares. The operators are awaiting further developments in Oil and Iron. Indian Budget is also keenly awaited and various rumours are circulating.

SECURITIES.

There was improved inquiry for Government papers and prices exhibited further improvement.

COTTON MILLS.

Bombay, Feb. 18.

Paid up.		Closing rates.
100	Ahmed. Advance	395
100	Alliance	30
50	Apollo	6
500	Bombay Cotton	317|8
200	Bombay Dyeing	952|8
250	Bradbury	270
100	Century	462|8
100	Colaba Land	145
500	Central India Pr.	485
100	Coorla	172|8
100	Crescent	190
250	Currim	260
500	David	260
250	Dawn	660
200	Edward Sassoon	112|8
10	S. D. Sassoon	0-13-6
100	Elphinstone	17
250	Fazulbhoy	892|8
50	Finlay	153
1000	F. Petit	600
100	Globe	30
100	Gokak	132|8
100	Indian Bleaching	301|4
100	Indore Malwa	362|8
100	Jamshed Mfg.	47|8
50	Kastoorchand	25
100	Khatau	97|8
100	Kohinoor	292|8
1000	Luxmi Cotton	6800
100	Madhavrao Sed.	4
100	Manhowji	115
500	Mathradas	50
1000	Maneckji Petit	1600
100	Meyer Sassoon	82|8
1000	Morarji	2030
200	New Great	316|4
10	New City	115
250	Pabaney	286|4
200	Pearl	602|8
100	Phoenix	421|4
10	Premier	12|12
1000	Sholapur	7850
250	Simplex	207|8
50	Swan	155
100	Swadeshi	532|8
500	Tata Mill	82|8
500	Vishnu Cotton	3050

BANKS.

125	Imperial	1466|4
125	Imperial	369
50	India	54
25	Baroda	92
25	Central	26|2
25	Eastern	93
£12 1/2	National Bank	£50

RAILWAYS.

500	Ah. Prantij	915
	Amritsar Patti	143
1	Cen. Prov. Rly.	99|8
100	Dhond Baramati	102
100	Guzerat Rly.	92|8
100	Hosbiarpur	99
100	Khulna Baghirhaut Rly.	95
90	Mandra Bhon	77 x.d.
100	Sara Sirajgunj	99
100	Sialkote	108
100	Sindh Lt. Rly	140
100	Upper Sindh	90
500	Tapty Valley	725

MISCELLANEOUS.

100	Ahmedabad Electric	116
100	Andhra Valley	775
100	Alcock	395
125	B. Burma	857|8
10	B Burma No. 1	306|4
10	Br. India Insurance	8|8
8sh.	Bt. Burma Pet.	5/6
50	BB. Tramway	156|4
50	B. Tramway Pref.	68|8
200	Bombay Steam	285
50	Bombay Telephone	55
10	Rundi Cement	23|6
250	Indian Cement	320
10	Central Indian Mining	22|12
£ 1	Eastern Chemical ordy.	1|8
do 2	Do. Defd.	1
100	Kathi Ordinary	253|12
10	Katni Deferred	820
50	Oriental Life Ass.	1950
25	New India Insur.	22|2
10	Punjab P. Cement	15|3
10	Pref.	15|2
10	Shivrajpur	45|3
75	Tata Iron Ordinary	83
20	Tata Iron 1st Defd.	298|12
150	Tata Iron 1st Pref.	136|4
100	Tata Iron 2nd Pref.	95|8
1000	Tata Hydro	1121|4
100	Tata Oil	43
1000	Tata Power Ord	[illegible]

SECURITIES.

Bombay, Feb. 20.

3-1|2 per cent. Rupee Paper Rs. 76|2-6
4 per cent Conversion Loan due 1931-36 Rs. 94-2.
4 per cent Loan due 1934|37 Rs. 93|8.
4 per cent Loan due 1960-70 Rs. 87-14.
5 per cent War Loan due 1929-47 Rs. 100-6
5 per cent Loan due 1935 Rs. 101|4.
5 per cent Loan (Tax Free) due 1935 Rs. 102-6.
5 per cent Loan (Tax Free) due 1945|55 Rs. 106-10-6.
5-1|2 per cent War Bonds (Tax Free) due 1928 Rs. 105|5.
6 per cent Bonds (Tax Free) due 1933 Rs. 103-3
6 per cent Bonds (Free Tax) due 1931 Rs. 104-10.
6 per cent Bonds (Tax Free) due 1932 Rs. 106.
6-1/2 per cent. Bombay Development loan (Tax Free) due 1935 Rs. 111-9.
4 per cent Port Trust due 1974 Rs. 85-4
4 per cent Municipal due 1974 Rs. 84/4.
4 per cent Improvement Trust due 1974 Rs. 84-8.
6 per cent Bombay Municipal due 1954 Rs. 110-12.
6 per cent Municipal due 1929-49 Rs 102.
Forward Rates.—2nd March Sett. 3-1|2 per cent. Rupee Paper Rs. 76|13 1945|55 Rs. 106-11.
Tone of Market:—Steady.

100	Tata Power Pref.	910
215	Scindia Steam	19/4

PREFERENCE SHARES

10	7-1/2 p. c. Punjab Portland Cement	15/9
100	7-1/2 p.c. Tata Steel 1st pref.	138
100	7-1/2 p.c. Tata Steel 2nd pref.	95/4
1000	7 p.c. Hydro Pref.	1040
1000	1 p.c. Andhra Valley Pref.	997/8
500	1 p.c. Vishnu Pref	625
150	6 p.c. Tata Steel 1st Pref.	138
500	5-1/2 p.c. Tata Mill Pref.	110
500	5 p.c. Nagpur Pref.	188

COLABA OBSERVATORY, BOMBAY.

Summary of Meteorological Observations during 24 hours ending at 8 a.m. of 20th February, 1928.

Barometer (corrected to 32 deg. F.) at 8 a.m. 29.991 inches (.027 above normal.)

Barometer corrected at 4 p.m. (previous day) 29.910 inches (.048 above normal.)

Change of 8 a.m. barometer in past 24 hours .012.

Temperature (dry bulb) at 8 a.m. 72.3 degrees.

Temperature (wet bulb) at 8 a.m. 67.2.

Maximum temperature during 24 hours 82. degrees (0.8 below normal.)

Maximum temperature during 24 hours 67.7 degrees (0.5 above normal.

Relative humidity at 8 a.m. 76 per cent.

Relative humidity at 4 p.m. (previous day) 73 per cent.

Direction of wind at 8 a.m. ENE.

Velocity of wind at 8 a.m. 6 miles per hour.

Total movement of wind in 24 hours 154 miles.

Velocity of maximum gust of wind during 24 hours 19 miles per hour.

Extent of cloud at 8 a.m. (the whole sky cloudy—10) 0.

ALL-INDIA RELIEF.

AN APPEAL

Swami Sambuddhanada, Hon. Secretary, Ramakrishna Ashram, Khar, Bombay, writes.—

"Sri Ramakrishna Mission is the only organisation that always undertakes relief works for any afflicted area whenever and wherever necessary. It has been conducting such operations since 1896, making no distinction of Flood, Famine, Tornado, Cyclone, Cholera or Plague affected areas. It has to its credit a volume of such excellent activities done in Burma, Assam Bengal, U.P., the Punjab Central Provinces, Malabar, Madras, Cochin and Travancore.

In 1927 the Mission had to conduct relief works at Nellore (S. India), Orissa and Gujarat simultaneously.

Under the circumstances we beg to invite the attention of the general public, to the deplorable condition of Orissa, with the hope that they will not fail to break down the narrow walls of Provincialism on such an occasion and do the little they can to relieve the people there of. Any contribution, however, small, will be most thankfully received by the President or Secretary, Ramakrishna Ashram, Khar, Bombay or the President or Secretary, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Belur, Dt. Howrah, Bengal."

MUNICIPAL STALL-HOLDERS' GRIEVANCES.

MEMORIAL TO CORPORATION

Mr. S. H. Jhabvala has addressed a memorial to the President and members of the Bombay Corporation in regard to the Municipality's proposals to compel all municipal market stall-holders to put in 3 months' deposit as a guarantee of good faith. The contention of the authorities is that they find great difficulty in collecting the quarterly amounts due for the use and occupancy of stalls. Against this, the memorial submits that it is wrong to charge the men with dishonesty when the methods of recovery are faulty, and the system of auctioning out licenses to the highest bidders, is responsible for the trouble.

As trade is slack, it is hard for the stall-holders to keep a deposit equal to three months' rent, and assuming that the Municipality was right in the statement about defaulters, the percentage of such defaulters was very low. Even from such defaulters, the Municipality could very well recover the rent with more rigid action supported by the law court

NATIONAL MUSLIM UNIVERSITY.

LEADERS' SYMPATHY WITH MAHATMA-ANSARI APPEAL

The following is a complete list of the prominent leaders who have so far associated themselves with the appeal issued by Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ansari to place the Jamia Millia Islamia (National Muslim University, Delhi) on a sound financial basis as a memorial to its founder, the late Hakim Ajmal Khan Sahib:—

H. H. the Aga Khan, the Hon. Mr. V. J. Patel, Maharaja of Mamoodabad, Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sir Ali Imam, Mr. Hasan Imam, Sir Mohd. Iqbal, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sir Abdur Rahim, Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan, Mr. Tairsee of Bombay, Moulana Mohd. Ali, Moulana Shaukat Ali, Mr. Sen Gupta, Mr. K. C. Roy, Babu Rajindraparshad, Mr. Mazahrul Haq, Mr. A. M. Khaja, Shahizada Aftab Ahmad Khan, Moulana Sulaiman Nadvi, Moulana Zafar Ali Khan, Dr. Mohd. Alam, Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, Mr. M. S. Aney, Mr. G. R. Deshpande, Moulana Kifayatullah, Sir Fakhruddin, Nawab Sir Mazamilullah Khan, Syed Abdur Rauf Shah of Berar, Moulana Masood Ali Nadvi, Mr. Subash Bose, Dr. S. Mahmood, the Hon. Shah Mohd. Zubair, Moulana Shafi Daudi, M.L.A., Mr. Vallabhai Patel, Seth Yakub Hasan Mr. Mohd. Asghar, Mr. Mohd. Naseem Mr. Khaliquzzaman, Moulvi Abdul Qadar of Quasar, Seth Haji Abdulla Haroon Seth Jamal Mohammad of Madras, Mr. Mujeebur Rehman, Calcutta, Mr. Amir Mustafa Khan, Moulvi Abdur Qadar Siddiqi, M.L.A., Kanwar Abdul Wahab Khan of Madras, Sir P. C. Roy.

AIM OF VOTERS' LEAGUE.

APPEAL TO CITIZENS OF BOMBAY

The Organising Secretary of the Bombay Voters' League, writes:—

On the 18th December last, the Voters' League was inaugurated at a public meeting of the citizens of Bombay held in the Marwadi Vidyalaya Hall, under the presidency of Mr. M. A. Jinnah. It is high time now that we should know what the Municipal Government at present means, how far the ideals of Local Self-Government are realized and what services the representatives of the people are rendering in the true interests of the people. A careful record showing the regularity, deligence, and faithfulness of the service rendered by them, needs to be brought before the Electorate and, last but not the least, a large section of the civic voters needs to be educated into full realisation of the needs of the city and a proper appreciation to exercise their franchise independently without fear or favour.

LEAGUE'S AIM.

The main aim of the League is to make the governance of our Municipality as effectively democratic as possible. To realise such an ideal the executive of the League will necessarily have to secure as large a proportion of the voters of Bombay to be members of the League as possible. The membership fee of the League is Re. 1 per year which is very moderate and low enough to be within the means of every registered and qualified voter. The need of charging some fee need hardly be expatiated upon.

Membership forms and any information about the League can be had from Mr. Gordhandas Goculdas Morarji, Organising Secretary, Naigam Road, Dadar, Bombay.

BOMBAY CHRONICLE

NEW AGENCY

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MUNICIPAL WORKERS.

CONGRATULATED FOR BOLD STAND ON HARTAL DAY

A mass meeting of the Municipal Workers in the City of Bombay was held on Wednesday evening at Foras Road, Mr. Jhabvala presided. The President at the outset, congratulated the Workers on their bold stand at the time of the recent hartal. He deprecated the attitude of the authorities in victimising some of the men who absented themselves in obedience to the call of the country. He also congratulated them upon the success they achieve in re-instating the men on their jobs by a strike in the Municipal Workshop.

Mr. Nimbker, the Secretary of the Union gave a report of the work done by the Union and laid emphasis on the advantages the men were getting through Unionism.

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were then unanimously passed:—

This meeting of the Bombay Municipal Workmen's Union, demands of the Sub-Committee of the Municipal Corporation to investigate immediately the various grievances of the men in various Departments represented to the authorities from time to time up to date, so as to allay the feeling of deep discontent among the men. Failing which, the Union will be constrained to take the best possible measures in the interest of the men.

This meeting earnestly requests the Municipal Commissioner to pay wages to the workers for the three days during which they were out as a result of his refusal to take back 50 workmen on work.

DEMAND OF ELECTRIC SUPPLY AT ANDHERI

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT CROWDED MEETING

A very crowded public meeting of the people of Andheri, Versova and the adjoining suburbs was held on Sunday, the 12th instant under the auspices of the Andheri Landholders and Residents' Association when Sheth Mathuradas Vissanji presided. The following resolutions were passed at the meeting:—

(1) This public meeting of the citizens of Andheri, Versova and the adjoining suburbs held on the 12th February, 1928, under the auspices of the Andheri Landholders and Residents' Association regrets that the amenity of electric supply has been so long withheld from Andheri and requests Government to call upon Messrs. Killick Nixon and Co., and Messrs. Callenders Cable and Construction Co., the Joint Licensees for Electric Supply in the suburbs to extend their operations to Andheri forthwith.

(2) This meeting requests the Government to take measures to give electric supply to Versova by amending the present licence so as to include Versova.

(3) This meeting authorises the Secretaries of the Andheri Landholders and Residents' Association to send copies of these resolutions to the Government and to the licensees and to take such other steps in the matter as may be necessary.

DALIT SEVA SAMAJ

COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO DRAFT CONSTITUTION

A meeting of some prominent citizens of Bombay was held on Tuesday afternoon to consider the question of estabishing a permanent institution called the Dalit Seva Samaj (Friends of the Depressed Class Society) in the Hindustan Office under the presidentship of Dr. Sumant Mehta, a well-known social worker of Gujrat.

THE SATYAGRAHA QUESTION.

A question was raised at the very outset whether it would be competent for the new Institution to resort to Satyagraha with a view to remove any of the social and religious disabilities of the depressed classes. After several speakers expressed their opinion on this point, it appeared to the general sense of the House that the point should be left open for the future consideration and decision and as nobody thought of starting any campaign of this character in the near future

It was then resolved to start an institution called the Dalit Seva Samaj to serve the objects outlined generally in the statement recently published on the subject over the signature of several leading citizens of Bombay and a Committee was appointed to draft the constitution.

CONSTITUTE SANTA-CRUZ MUNICIPAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE'S DEMAND.

Why should not Santa Cruz, well known for its public spirit, be constituted as a separate Municipal District?—This was the question raised by the Chairman of the Notified Area Committee, Santa Cruz in a communication to the Government of Bombay.

I regret, says the Chairman, that a copy of Press Note, issued by Government on the 6th October last abandoning for the present constitution of a joint Municipality for Santa Cruz, Vile Parle and Andheri, etc., is not yet forwarded for the information of my Committee. My Committee are of strong and emphatic opinion that the Santa Cruz be declared a Municipal area as early as possible in place of the Notified Area Committee as at present, or even the same, with increased powers proposed to be granted under the amended District Municipal Act, for liberalising constitution. It is not, however, understood why a place like Santa Cruz where the situation is quite favourable for constituting a Municipal District should not yet be declared to be so.

The press note on the subject gives no hope to Santa Cruz public to have a Municipality for their area in the near future.

HIGHLY UNFAIR

As regards information in detail for the statistical and financial position of the present Notified Area constitution the same has already been supplied by my predecessor, wherefrom it must have been clearly seen that the area is ripe long since for Municipal Administration. Many smaller areas in this Presidency having a smaller population and much less income are enjoying the privilege of a Municipality and it is highly unfair that this area having better claims than those should have its rights overlooked.

The Santa Cruz public has on several occasions demanded in no uncertain tone a full fledged Municipal Administration. My Committee are opposed to any tinkering with the Notified Area Committees' constitution and believe that such a procedure will not be satisfactory at all. My Committee may be allowed to remind you of a resolution passed at a Joint Meeting of all the Notified Area Committees some time back when it was resolved by a large majority that no tinkering with the Notified Area Committees' constitution would be satisfactory and that every Notified Area must be declared a Municipal Area at once. My Committee beg also to emphasise that while it would require a change in law to liberalize the constitution of Notified Area Committees, declaration of these areas as Municipal Area can be done in a day. My Committee are confident that with the public spirit for which Santa Cruz is always well known it will be possible to make Municipal Administration here a complete success.

NANDED NOTES

(From Our Correspondent.)

NANDED, Feb. 15.

The Government Taluka Dispensary at Biloli in Nanded District even for a few hours to few days to be managed by a compounder, is really a matter of surprise. Can a compounder perform post mortems during emergency- Can he handle medico-legal cases?

The world is changing every minute and the importance of proper medical aid cannot be ignored, specially for Taluka places. The In-charge Medical Officer could be sanctioned leave for four days just because the District Medical Sanitary Officer is transferred and that the said M. O. of Biloli Taluka deserves to be present at Headquarters to give him a send-off!

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SWARAJISTS ABSENT FROM COUNCIL

ATTEMPT TOWARDS UNITED FRONT.

WILL BOYCOTT RESOLUTION BE MOVED?

MR. SWAMINARAYAN'S 49 RESOLUTIONS

With all the conventional pomp and ceremony, Sir Leslie Wilson, the Governor of Bombay, opened the Budget session of the Bombay Legislative Council on Monday afternoon. The noticeable feature of the first day was the absence of the Swaraj Party in the Council Hall during the speeches of the Governor and the Finance Member. The eyes of the Presidency are naturally directed to the attitude which the elected members of this legislature will take as regards the resolution of the Congress passed at the Madras Session, in which the Congress calls upon the non-official members not to attend the meetings of the Legislatures except for the purpose of preventing their seats being declared vacant, or for the purpose of making the boycott (of the Simon Commission) effective and successful, or for the purpose of throwing out a Ministry or for opposing any measure which in the opinion of the Working Commitee, is detrimental to the interests of India." The members of the nationalist groups in the Council have been busy of late trying to focus the views of the elected representatives of people. Unfortunately there have been so many parties in the Bombay Council that it is not an easy task to refresh one's memory as to the exact number and titles of all these parties. There are parties within parties and the lines of distinction between different parties are, indeed, very dim and, in some cases, quite imaginary. It is, however, confidently expected that the Nationalist, parties will at any rate forget the ine points of difference and rally round he greatest common measure of their greement.

The Congress Party as such is very weak n this Council. It has got a membership f only 11 members on the list. Mr. Nariman, the leader of the Party, has wired to e Congress President asking the latter's unsel as regards the future conduct of e Congress members in this Council. In e meanwhile, the members of the party e trying hard to get as many members possible, who will join the party as sociate members and help the party in ing effect to the Congress resolution. e other nationalist parties are not at silent on this momentous issue. The olition Nationalist Party which came being during the last session of the ncil at Poona and which consists of t of the Swarajists, Responsivists, ncil Nationalists, United Nationalists Independents, with Mr. K. M. Munshi its Secretary, has been meeting these days and deliberating upon the course h the members of the party should w in future. The report goes that decisions have not yet been arrived on many an important issue: however e is completest unanimity of opinion ng the members on the question of the itt of the Commission.

HEAVY AGENDA.

e agenda for the session is extraordi- heavy and the time allotted for is items is very short. According to ual procedure, 3 days will be devoted general discussion of the budget and ays to the demands for grants and ns to reduce or omit grants. It is stood that only two days have been d for non-official business. There private bills and over 200 resolu- forming part of the non-official busi- nd it can be well imagined how little of this will be gone through during the two days at the disposal of the House. Some of the non-official members seem to vie with one another in swelling the number of the resolutions that stand against their names. It is always the good fortune of Mr. J. C. Swaminarayan to beat the record in this respect and it must be said to his credit that this time he has beaten all his previous records by tabling no less than 49 resolutions in his own name. Of all the resolutions two are most important. Mr. P. V. Jadhav's resolution recommends to Government to take into consideration the great public service done by Mr. K. F. Nariman and to sanction a substantial amount to be paid to him to enable him to meet the heavy costs he had to incur in defending himself. Mr. R. G. Pradhan's resolution is more or less a model of the boycott resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly on last Saturday. The unfortunate part of the situation is that these two resolutions have obtained the back numbers in the ballot and there is no likelihood of their coming before this session of the Council unless they are given priority or else the other non-official members drop the resolutions standing in their names. No doubt, our elected representatives are resourceful enough to arrange their business in such a way as to find time for the discussion of both these resolutions.

RECEPTION OF GOVERNOR'S SPEECH.

The Governor's speech was well received by the House. A majority of members may not agree with the Governor in his views regarding the Statutory Commission but they appeared to be satisfied with the manner in which he presented his case. His references to the Commission were, in all conscience couched in a language which was far less offensive than that of the Governor's of many other provinces. Surely, nobody could expect the Governor of a province to justify the boycott of the Simon Commission. It was, therefore, no surprise that the Governor of Bombay had his fling at those Indian politicians who have been advocating the boycott most unequivocally. Like all other Governors, Sir Leslie Wilson also has taken his stand on the constitutional rights of Parliament but the style and manner of his argument are certainly not in the least provocative. His natural sportsmanship stood him in good stead while presenting to the House a case with which, he himself must be knowing it full well, a majority of the members were in complete disagreement.

MERIT OF FINANCE MEMBER'S SPEECH.

Sir Chunilal Mehta's Budget speech was just the kind of speech which is expected of a Finance Member well versed in figures. This speech too, in spite of its length, was patiently listened to by the House. The chief merit of this speech lies in the fact that it takes a very wide and comprehensive survey of the financial position of this Presidency. A special mention must be made of the fact that in his speech, Sir Chunilal has refrained from making any allusions to political controversies. His references to Mahatma Gandhi, Mr. Vallabhbai Patel and the band of selfless workers of the Gujarat Vidyapith were particularly appreciated by the nationalist members of the House.

BOMBAY CITY & SUBURBS.

ENGAGEMENTS

TO-DAY.

Bombay Legislative Council meets at the Town Hall, 2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22.

Municipal Standing Committee, 4-10 p.m.

POSTAL NOTICE.

Superscribed Mails for Japan per S.S. "Taizan Maru" will be closed at the General Post Office at 8 a.m. on Thursday the 23rd Inst.

OPENING OF CHILDRENS' WARD IN MEHER HOMJI HOSPITAL.

The Children's Ward in the B. Meher-Homji Hospital will be opened by Lady Wilson, on Thursday the 23rd instant at 10-30 a.m.

THE MOSLEM STUDENTS UNION.

An inter-debate with the Catholic Students Union will be held to-day (Tuesday) at 6-30 p.m. in the Union Hall Marina Mansion Chowpatty, on "Hindu-Moslem Unty can be achieved only through legislation and not by persuasion."

YOUTH LEAGUE AT KHAR ROAD.

The first general body meeting of The Youth League, Khar Road will take place to-day (Tuesday) at 7-30 p.m. in the Laxmi Society Pavilion to adopt the draft Constitution and to transact any other business that may be brought before the House with the consent of the President. All members are requested to be present.

NOTICE TO SPECIAL JURORS.

In supersession of the verbal intimation given in Court yesterday to Special Jurors to appear on Wednesday 22nd Instant, they are now hereby notified that they are required to attend the Sessions Court this morning, TUESDAY the 21st Instant at 11 o'clock (S.T.)

STEAMER MOVEMENTS.

The outward P. and O. Mail Steamer "Maloja" with Mails from London of the 16th instant left Marseilles at 6 a.m. on the 18th instant.

The Homeward P. and O. Mail Steamer "Rawalpindi" with the mails from Bombay of the 11th instant arrived at Port Said at 8-30 p.m. on the 19th instant and left there at midnight the same day.

ENGLISH MAILS.

The outward P. and O. Mail Steamer "Kaisar-I-Hind" with the Mails from London of 9th instant arrived at Aden at noon on the 19th instant and left there at 6 p.m. the same day.

In ordinary course she should arrive in Bombay at 4 a.m. on Friday the 24th instant.

DNYAN PRASARAK MANDALI.

A public lecture in Gujarati will be delivered under the auspices of the above Society to-day, Tuesday, the 21st February, 1928, at 6 p.m. (S.T.), at the Sir Cowasji Jehangir Public Hall, Royal Institute of Science, by Khan Bahadur Dr. B. H. Nanavaty, C.I.E., F.R.C.S., F.C.P.S., of Ahmedabad, on "Diseases and Prejudices in connection with them." All are cordially invited to attend.

CITY'S MORTALITY.

The following is a statement showing the total mortality from 6 a.m. of Sunday to 6 a.m. of Monday.

Small-pox, attacks, 7, deaths, 4 Cholera attacks nil deaths nil. Plague, attack nil death 1 Influenza attack nil death nil. (Stillborn). 80: Total Mortality (Exclusive of the total mortality this day last year was 81.

PICNIC AND SPORTS AT JUHU.

The residents of "Marian Mansions", Clare Road, Byculla, Bombay, organised a very successful picnic and sports at Juhu. The party consisted of a good number of persons and included the relations and lady friends of the residents and a few ex-residents.

The Sports consisted of 20 events well arranged so that the young and old and the kiddies could take part—the Bandmen too were not forgotten—in this race the Jazz drummer came first and the 1st violinist second. The tug-of-war was this year between girls and boys in the ratio of 2 to 1 and was won by the girls. 42 handsome prizes were given away to the successful winners in the Sports. All prizes have been offered by the residents, Mr. J. M. Miranda, the heart and soul of the sports topping the list with 24 presents! The Sports ground was neatly decorated with flags and streamers.

VICE-CHANCELLOR "AT HOME"

Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bombay, was "At Home" to His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson, Chancellor. Many prominent citizens responded to the invitation of the Vice-Chancellor.

CALCUTTA POLICE EXCESSES CONDEMNED

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CONGRATULATED

BOMBAY STUDENTS' MEETING

Enthusiastic scenes of the Bombay Students at the Cowasji Jehangir Hall on February 3 last were repeated at the Marwadi Vidyalaya on Monday evening when the Hall was besieged by the students of Bombay to record their emphatic protest against the excesses committed by the Calcutta Police against the Calcutta students for observing a hartal on February 3. The hall was packed to its suffocating capacity long before the time announced for the meeting and many who came punctually had to remain content with standing on the foot path, Mr. K. F. Nariman presided. Several lady students also attended.

Opening the proceedings of the evening, Mr. Nariman congratulated the Youths of Bombay on their having assembled in such large numbers to do their legitimate duty before speaking about the subjects of the evening, Mr. Nariman wanted to compliment the Government and the authorities of the various educational institutions of Bombay on their being level-headed on the occasion when their contemporaries in Madras and Calcutta lost their heads and committed rash acts. Sir Stanley Jackson, the Governor of Bengal who had been appointed a Governor because he was a great cricketer had thrown out a challenge to the citizens of not only Bengal but of India by asserting in an after dinner speech that the Simon Commission was a settled fact and that Indians should take it as such. Fortunately, the Legislative Assembly had given a fitting reply to that arrogant challenge and the elected members deserved to be heartily congratulated on their brave fight. (Loud cheers).

The speaker then referred to the remarks of the Bengal Governor regarding the grant to the Calcutta University and said that his threat of witholding the grant was only ridiculous.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ASSEMBLY.

Mr. Nariman then referred to the 'kidnapping' of the Maharaja of Nabha whom he described as a great patriot and said that sympathies of all India would go to Ripudaman Singh. The following resolution was moved from the chair:—

This meeting heartily congratulates the non-official members of the Indian Legislative Assembly on the splendid popular victory by passing the Boycott Resolution on the Simon Commission in the Assembly. It also places on record its profound admiration at the high sense of patriotic duty displayed by the late Mr. Harichandrai Vishindas and offers its heartfelt sympathy to the family of the deceased in their bereavement.'

The resolution was carried all standing. Mr. Meher Ali then moved that:

This meeting of the Youth of Bombay strongly condemns the atrocities perpetrated by the Calcutta police by trespassing into several colleges and buildings and indiscriminatingly attacking peaceful students' demonstrations;

This meeting strongly condemns the actions of the Principals of the Presidency and Bethuene Colleges of Calcutta for their harsh and cruel treatment to the students and particularly congratulates Sjt. P. C. Ghosal for his courageous stand against the autocracy of Principal Stapleton.

Miss Kantak seconded the resolution which was duly supported and carried unanimously.

Mr. B. G. Kher in the course of a forceful speech supported the resolution. He took the opportunity to it publicly that the Maharashtrian Youth League was in no way opposed to the Bombay Presidency Youth League. The Maharashtrian Youth Conference, he said, was held with the approval of Mr. Nariman.

After several others supported the resolution, it was put to the vote and was carried unanimously.

Miss Freni Besania next moved that:—

This meeting enters an emphatic protest against the shameful threat held out by the Governor of Bengal in his speech delivered as Chancellor at the last Convocation of the Calcutta University and trusts that the Senate of the University will take up the challenge by espousing the cause of the courageous and patriotic students of Calcutta;

After it was duly seconded the resolution was put to the vote and was carried.

The following resolution next carried:—

This meeting views with horror the special Flogging Ordinance against the students of Baghdad for participating in the legitimate demonstration against Sir Alfred Mond and offers its hearty sympathies to the students and people of Iraq in their fight for freedom.

Winding up the proceedings of the evening, Mr. Nariman asked the youths to take up social work as well as political during their holidays.

The meeting terminated with a vote thanks to Mr. Nariman.

EUROPEANISING CALCUTTA PORT TRUST

BOMBAY TRUST INDIANS' PROTEST

DECISION TO RESIGN FROM BOARD

CALCUTTA, Feb. 19.

Free Press understands that in appreciation of the principle of Indianisation in the Port Trust appointments, the Indian members of the Bombay Port Trust have also decided to resign from their Board in sympathy with the Indian members of Calcutta Port Trust.

Last week, the Indian members of the Board of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta addressed the Government of Bengal requesting them to interfere in regard to the appointment of a European to the post of the Assistant Accountant under the Calcutta Port Commissioners as recommended by the majority of the European Commissioners in the teeth of the most emphatic protest from them. They also pointed out how in actual practice the Government pledge of Indianisation of the superior services under the Port Trust has borne no fruit at all, and apposed to Government to make use of this opportunity to show the earnestness of their intention to carry out the Government pledge of Indianisation and to withhold sanction from the appointment of the European and rectify the grave injustice that is being done to the legitimate aspirations of Indians.

OFFENSIVELY HOSTILE.

It was also pointed out that the Indian interests were in a hopeless minority, and if in appreciation of this, Government do not withhold their sanction to the appointment, they will have to consider seriously whether their continuance on the Board with an overwhelming majority openly and even offensively hostile to India interests, would serve any purpose consistent with their duties and obligation to the interests they represent.—Free Press.

TENNIS

WESTERN INDIA TOURNEY.

PITT AND RAJA IYER BEATEN IN IN DOUBLES.

Of the sixteen matches played in the Western India Tennis Tournament Yesterday only three ran into the full number of seats. The surprise of the day was the unexpected defeat of Pitt and Raja Iyer by Suvarna and Khardekar. When the former couple won the initial set at 6—3, the result of the match seemed a foregone conclusion, but Suvarna and Khardekar, playing with grim determination, completely made themselves masters of the situation and took the next two sets having a little to spare at the end. Perhaps the losers were a little over-confident but that rising young player Suvarna excelled himself and gave a fine display, being well supported by Khardekar.

Neda stock is rapidly going up as could be seen from his performance in two matches. Mulla managed to bag with difficulty only one game from him in the singles, and although Kamruddin and Brough are as tough a pair as could be met with, Neda and Tomanaga disposed of them fairly comportably in two straight sets. Taku and Fox won their respective matches while Suvarna beat Dhagamwani, the latter putting up a better game than the score seems to indicate.

Amongst the ladies Miss Evans eliminated Mrs. Campbell by 6—2, 6—0 and Mrs. Moir gave a glimpse of her excellent form by defeating the veteran Mrs. Race by two love sets. Miss Wild went down before Mrs. Clayton in a prolonged tussle which involved three sets, the last being especially well contested.

In partnership with Pitt, Mrs. Moir made short shrift of Hutchinson and Mrs. Bowne who could not capture a single game. The other mixed doubles matches saw Kamruddin and Miss. Tallyarkhan winning against Tyabjee and Miss Burrows without being unduly extended.

The sisters stebbing combined well against Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Shanks whom they beat in two straight sets. The opening set provided an exciing tussle which ran into twelve games, but thereafter the harder hitting of he sisters gave them the upper hand and they conceded only two games in he next set. Mrs. Race and Miss Evans passed into the next round while Mrs. Quinn and Mrs. Campbell had an easy time.

BOMBAY SOCIAL WORKERS

TO MEET IN CONFERENCE

Under the auspices of the Bombay Council of Social Workers the second session of the Bombay Social Service Conference will be held in Bombay in the last week of March under the presidency of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. The following is the personnel of the office bearers and the Managing Committee of the forthcoming session:—Chairman: Miss B. A. Engineer, General Secretary: K. J. Dubash, Secretaries: Mrs. K. Shuff Tyebji, Mr. W. E. D. Ward, Mr. D. S. Savardekar, Mr. G. N. Sahasrabudhe, and Mr. S. V. Parulekar.

It has been decided to discuss the following subjects in this session:—(1) Vigilance work, (2) Village Reconstruction; (3) Library Movement, (4) Primary Education, (5) Unemployment and (6) Prohibition.

The Bombay Council of Social Workers appeals to individual workers and institutions to co-operate with it in making the Conference a success. The Delegation fee for an institution is Rs. 5/- which will enable it to send three delegates to the Conference on its behalf. For every additional delegate sent on its behalf the institution will have to Re. 1. Individual delegates will have to pay Rs. 2.

BOMBAY ELECURIC SUPPLY AND TRAMWAYS CO. LTD.

MONTHLY STATEMENT OF EARNINGS FOR JANUARY 1928.

Electric Supply. Earnings for January 1928, Rs. 7,68,519. Total earnings upto the end of January 1928. Rs. 7,68,519. Traction (Trams and Omnibuses). Earnings for January 1928 Rs. 5,96,059. Total earnings upto the end of January 1928. Rs. 5,96,059. Increase over same period last year 1,20,426.

LABOUR MISSIONARIES ON THEIR ROUNDS

On Friday (17-2-28) last, a mass meeting of general workers was held on the way side at Dongri near the gaol in the open compound when Mr. Jhabvala presided.

Mr. Jhabvala addressed them on Imperialism and how it was undermining the condition of the lower masses. He therefore exhorted them to demolish it by unionism. If all the Railwaymen only combined together in India they would be able to overthrow the whole Government of India and establish Kamgar Raj in India.

The resolutions were thereafter moved by Mr. Jhabvala and unanimously adopted.

CALCUTTA SHARE MARKET

(From Our Correspondent.)

CALCUTTA, Feb. 20.

Jute, Howrah Clive are fully steady. Other shares are mostly the same, excepting Gondolpara Standard Lothian.

Cotton, coal, and miscellaneous sect their was no change. In tea there was all doing.

Government securities were steady and busi poor. G. P. 3 1/2 per cent G. P. 6/1 4 per cent Loan; (1960-70) 88/2 D. 88/8 C. D. 5 per cent Loan. (1918 1945-55) 106/12 Imperial Bank Com 360 Central 25/12, 26 C. D.

Rays: Dehri Rohtas 17 Jutes: Alliance 50, Auckland 414/8, 411, Aiyawindia 526, Ely 338/8, 341/8, Budge Budge 650, 656/8, Clive 53/6, Dalhousie 622, 628/8, Delta 71, Gondalpara 1495, Fortwilliam 488/8, Hooghly 107, Howrah 57/8, 67/6, Hukumchand 25/2, 24/12, Kamarhati 855, 850/8, Kankinarah 631/8, Lansdowne 360, Lothia 613/8, National 36/2, Nuddea 71, Oxigen 19, Presidency 13/14, Standard 668/8, Reliance 92, Wanesly 9/2,

Miscellaneous, Bengal Iron 18/5, 18/9 I. I. Steel 19/6, Burn and Co. (Ordy) 460, 458, Wagon (Ordy) 44/4, Tata Iron Steel (Ordy). Pref. 134/, Tata Iron Steel (Defd. 296. Hessian 18.

Raw jute 62/4.

MR. JHABWALLA AT ITARSI

ADDRESSES MEETING OF RAILWAY WORKERS

(From Our Correspondent.)

Mr. Jhabvala, the Gen. Secretary of the G. I. P. Railway Employees' General Union visited Itarsi with a view to strengthening the centre of the Union already started there. A large number of Railway workers were present. Among those present were Mr. Morgan, Mr. Henderson and others who were anxious to know actually what the men were after, considerable misunderstanding having prevailed as regards Mr. Jhabvala's movements which was suspected to be mainly political.

After he had explained the position of the Union Mr. Jhabvala congratulated the men on the boldness they had shown in becoming members of the Union, and coming forward to share the burden of the workers' battles which he said also meant the battles of India's freedom. He strongly denounced the attitude of those men on the line who would not join the Union. The Union was fighting the poor man's battle. So long as week-kneed men were there, men without backbone there would be no rights, no privileges for the men. His protest was not against any race, caste or community: he believed some Englishmen were better than many Indians even, but his fight was against the administrative machinery.

MUNICIPAL MARKET STALLHOLDERS PROTEST.

On Friday night a general meeting of the stall-holders of Municipal Markets was held at Madina Building, Parton Road when Mr. S. H. Jhabvala presided. The meeting protested against the proposed deposit money and also to endorse all the communications sent to individual corporators.

AMBEWADI POST OFFICE.

Under the auspices of the Deccan Merchants' Association a pleasant function took place on Saturday morning of opening of the Ambewadi Post Office on Girgaon Road, at the hands of Mr. Buckner, Presidency Post Master, Bombay. There was a large representative gathering including Mr. M. V. Godbole, Hon. Secretary of the D. M. A., who thanked the President and postal authorities including Mr. Buckner, who assisted in establishing the Post Office on Girgaon.

LATEST COTTON QUOTATIONS

(Through Cotton Telegraphic Information Service, 375, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.)

NEW YORK. JULY.

	Feb. 20.
Previous Closing Rate	18.16
To-day's Opening Rate	18.27
Difference	plus .11
To-day's Closing Rate	18.29
Difference	plus .13

LIVERPOOL.

	Feb. 20.
Previous Closing Rate	9.57
To-day's Opening Rate	9.64
Difference	plus .07
To-day's Closing Rate	9.66
Difference	plus .09
Broach Expectation	364

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2. MERCANTILE LAW (1925): 4th Edition. It deals with the complete Mercantile Law in simple language with references and carefully prepared Index. Rs. 9.
3. HIGHER ACCOUNTING (1916): A book for Book-keepers, Accountants, Auditors, Accountancy Students and Business-men. Rs. 6.
4. BUSINESS ORGANIZATION (2nd Edition), 1922, dealing with problems of organization and promotion of Companies Systems in use in large business offices. Stock exchange practices, Labour efficiency and organisation. Secretarial Work and Scientific advertising. Rs. 7-8.
5. G. D. A. SOLUTIONS SUPPLEMENT 1925, Rs. 1-8-0.

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The Bombay Chronicle.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1928.

LITIGATION AT EXORBITANT COST.

RIDDANCE OF THE DUAL SYSTEM

(BY "S. R. D.")

The "Bombay Chronicle" has dealt with the above subject in its editorial columns since our four articles were contributed and it is gratifying to find the comments made therein are in hearty agreement with the basic principles on which we have taken our stand, viz., that (1) we are in dire need of a media for expeditious justice and (2) that we ought to be able to get justice at a reasonable cost. One of the remedies suggested is the abolition of the "dual system" and the other is the classification of cases into (1) Short Causes, (2) Ordinary Cases, (3) Important Cases, with a view to bring about expedition. The City Civil Court unfortunately is not approved of under the fear that "it might mean 'ad valorem' court fees which in cases over Rs. 10,000 may be quite considerable." Lest certain misapprehensions should prevail in connection with the view we have expressed in suggesting the establishment of a City Court, in preference to the abolition of the "dual system", we crave the indulgence of one more contribution on this subject.

WHY NOT ABOLISH THE DUAL SYSTEM?

This point we shall propose to deal with first, but before dealing with the disadvantages of this system, we may make it clear that were it not for practical reasons we should ourselves have advocated that course. The "dual system" is undoubtedly an undesirable system and at the time the New Indian Bar Councils Bill, 1926, which was recently passed by the Assembly was being discussed we advocated the abolition of this system. Unfortunately, at the time when the Bill came up for argument, that section of the Assembly which at the time was very strongly represented in the Assembly, namely, the Swaraj Party, had "walked out" with the result that in spite of opposition from the nationalists and others nothing substantial could be done and the national cause suffered. The bill was thus steered through with the reservation that the "Dual Agency System should be allowed to continue where it existed." This being now a 'fait accompli' there was no other course left but to find out some other means by which the public could secure cheap and expeditious justice and for our part we see no better substitute than the establishment of a City Civil Court in Bombay. The principal merit of the scheme advocated by us is that it can be introduced and passed through our Bombay Legislative Council avoiding the cumbersome and obstructive procedure so peculiar to Imperial Legislation. We can here frame our own scheme, suited to our own requirements, and Calcutta, the only other city interested in the dual system may, if it chooses, follow suit or stand aloof.

HOW IT WORKS?

The 'dual system' is an anachronism which no disinterested person can with any show of logic justify or defend. This system is not to be found in work in any civilised country except in England and the two presidency towns of Bombay and Calcutta. At one time, an attempt at argument was made in some quarters to the effect that it was an indispensable necessity in industrial and commercial centres, until it was pointed out that in equally advanced commercial and industrial centres in America, France, Germany, Italy and British Dominions as well as Colonies, the system did not prevail. Apart from the position on the Continent of Europe or America, in the British Empire itself the Dominions such as Canada, Australia, etc are doing very well indeed without it and there every lawyer practises both as a barrister and as a solicitor. Nay more, Englishmen themselves are now getting restless on this question as is evidenced by the fact that the Rt. Hon'ble Viscount Haldane, the one time Lord High Chancellor of England and himself a counsel of great eminence has expressed himself in favour of abolishing the "dual system".

(To Be Continued.)

BOMBAY'S UNSATISFACTORY FINANCES

It was inevitable that in inaugurating this year's session of the Bombay Legislative Council, His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson should dwell at some length on the Simon Commission. His apology for it is really apologetic but hardly convincing, its only merit being that it is studiously courteous. He says that "any such idea in considering the personnel of the Commission" as that "there are no Indians fit to sit on such a Commission, so vital to the interest of India" should at once be put on one side and that the real point to be considered is the appointment of the Commission from a strictly constitutional point of view. Sir Leslie dismisses the idea in question so as to lead us to believe that no insult is meant to India. We are glad he so summarily dismisses the idea but would remind him that the idea was first given prominence by none else than the Secretary of State for India. As regards the constitutional aspect, the view has been repudiated times without number that because Parliament has the final responsibility in granting reforms, it is right for it to have a solely Parliamentary Committee even at the enquiry stage. Besides, no such procedure is obligatory under the Government of India Act. It is significant that Sir Leslie does not attempt to prove that the Indian Committees are given equal powers with the Commission. He only states they are given the privilege of "close association." There is a trace of quibbling in His Excellency's justification of Indians being denied the right of presenting their report direct to Parliament. But it is superfluous to worry about that point any more. We are glad to be assured by Sir Leslie that he "sees for India a great future under the control of Indians with such assistance as India may desire from, and which will be willingly given by, Europeans." Indians desire even now an earnest of that goodwill in the shape of controlling power in the constitutional enquiry.

The remaining portion of Sir Leslie Wilson's speech was a lucid exposition of the general features of the administration in the financial year that is coming to a close and of the outlook on the next. It was marked by all the sincerity, courtesy and frankness of expression that we have learnt to associate with His Excellency, but throughout the speech might be discerned an undertone of regret that things were not quite as they might have been. It is a pity he had a weak case to present to the House and he has done the best of a bad job, satisfying few but offending none. The current year has little progress to show and the budget for the next holds out little better promise. "The long continued depression, in trade", says His Excellency, "has caused my Government much anxiety," but adds: "We welcome the signs that are at last appearing of a renewal of activity in world trade and look forward with renewed hope that we are at last about to pass out of the slough of depression in which we have so long struggled". So far as Bombay is concerned, with its textile industry still in danger, we do not yet see the signs of hope. Sir Chunilal who also deplores the depression of trade which is reflected in the decrease of revenue from stamps from Rs. 187 to 174 lakhs, does not, however, seem to be very hopeful. Sir Leslie himself admits: "It is idle, however, to pretend that our financial position is satisfactory. We have, indeed, by the exercise of rigorous economy and retrenchment managed to balance our revenue and expenditure both in the current year and in the estimates of the next year on the assumption that the Government of India will again be able to remit the provincial contribution." We do hope that the Central Government will remit the inequitable contribution. But what has mainly helped the balancing of the revenue and expenditure is the non-discharge of even the vital obligations of a progressive Government such as the development of education and industries. While admitting that primary education is one of the "obligations to which we are definitely committed," Sir Leslie has also to admit that a number of schemes of expansion even on a voluntary basis have long been held up. As regards the Industries Department too, His Excellency admits that this Department "has been more or less in a state of abeyance during the past two years" and that "provision for this Department remains at too low a figure to enable it to function as actively as is desirable." These are only two typical instances of the starving of two vital departments; yet these are departments which are rightly regarded as laying the foundation of future prosperity. Sir Leslie merely pleads want of funds and when he comes to the Back-Bay scheme merely reports the work being done, without showing how that scheme is heavily responsible for the mortgaging of the Presidency's resources for years to come.

Sir Chunilal's speech introducing the budget is happily free from the unfortunate defects which marked his last year's performance. The main features of the budget are the recurrence of deficits, shrinking of balances and revenue and no substantial and real economy. The deficit is largely the legacy of the Development extravagance and the "Lloyd's Folly" and even if the Provincial Contribution is remitted, it will not be wiped off. Our balances have been considerably reduced. They were well and rightly used in flood relief, but their diminution injures our credit, and affects our staying power. It makes the need for economy in wasteful expenditure more imperative than ever. The failure of Government to bring about economy is the more reprehensible in view of the considerable shrinkage in revenue amounting to 93 lakhs which was met by reduction in expenditure of only 51 lakhs. The Land Revenue collections were the lowest on record since the "Reforms", being 56 lakhs less than the estimate. Next year Land Revenue is expected to yield 7 lakhs less than the revised estimate for the current year and unless wiser counsels prevent with Government and they suspend the collection of higher assessment in Bardoli taluka, pending an understanding with the representatives of the people, the Satyagraha campaign will involve a further diminution of revenue. Referring to the beggarly increase of Rs. 5 lakhs in the expenditure on education, Sir Chunilal Mehta says: "I wish it had been possible to provide more: for the demand, especially on account of Primary Education Act, is insistent; but I hope the Council will recognise that there is no alternative. Indeed, I must extend my regret to all departments—transferred as well as reserved." The Council will certainly not endorse the Finance Member's view that there is no alternative. The alternative is there in the shape of a substantial reduction in expenditure on the Reserved Departments specially and of rational and relentless retrenchment in all Departments. There is no justification for instance, for the migrations of Government to the hill-tops or for the retention of the superflous post offices miscalled the Divisional Commissionerships, not to speak of the needless multiplications of Ministerships and Executive Councillorships, when it is pleaded that there is not sufficient money to finance the introduction of compulsory education throughout the Presidency.

While education is thus to be starved there is money enough to increase the expenditure on General Administration and Police from Rs. 2,20 lakhs and Rs. 1,67 lakhs to Rs. 223 lakhs and Rs. 1,70 lakhs respectively. And some idea of the curious sympathy responsible Government officers exhibit towards education can be gathered from the amazing proposal they make of increasing the rates of fees in Government Arts and Professional Colleges and Schools! It, of course, never occured to them that if the cost of maintaining these institutions is high the most rational course to adopt is to cut down the scale of salaries rather than to make education costly. The Director of Public Instruction, the Deputy Director and the Assistant Director between them cost the Presidency Rs. 73,079 and in addition we have the Education Secretary and his establishment. Why this duplication of machinery when there is a Minister to look after education? But the obvious remedy of cutting off the needless posts will not be adopted so long as the bureaucracy rules the Ministers. High hopes were entertained of Sir Chunilal's stewardship of the Presidency's finances. His failure to initiate comprehensive projects of nation-building by securing subsantial and effective retrenchment is one more proof of the power of the Steel Frame which holds India in subjection. This is Sir Chunilal's last budget. It is hoping against hope that the next Finance Member will be an Indian and it will be many years before the Government of Bombay will boast of a Finance Member of the ability and conscientiousness of Sir Chunilal. Sir Chunilal has paid a handsome tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and the band of selfless workers whom his labours have created and who came to the prompt assistance of Gujarat in its hour of calamity. It is his sincere hope that "the atmosphere for missionary service created by Mahatma Gandhi will be permanent and that there will be many occasions, but not of this unfortunate character, for Government and non-officials to work for a common purpose." There is one occasion already provided in Bardoli. There the Mahatma's followers have proceeded in the same spirit of missionary service to which Sir Chunilal referred. It is for Government to make an adequate response instead of taking refuge in a false sense of prestige—to respond in the same generous spirit as was displayed by Sir Chunilal Mehta when Gujrat was sorely afflicted.

THE INDIAN RAILWAYS.

The Indian railways seem to be making a very creditable show under direct State management of all the lines whose contract of management by the companies has expired. The expectations at the time of budget-making for the railways for 1927-28 have been more than borne out since, with the expectation of a few dismal weeks, in which unprecedented floods made havoc of the trade of Gujerat, the traffic in both goods and passengers was excellent throughout the year, breaking all previous records of Railway receipts. In the circumstances, the revised estimates for the year about to close on March 31 next, show an improvement of revenue to the tune of over 5 crores in the commercial section of the Indian railway enterprise, the strategic lines constructed for military reasons largely still continuing to show a deficit. This substantial improvement in revenues is not, as has only too often happened in the past in other instances, been swallowed up by more than a corresponding increase in the operating expenses. The Railway Board certainly deserves all the credit it so naively claims for having carried all this increased traffic at actually lower working expenses, if we leave out the provision for depreciation, which must, of course, grow with every increase in the aggregate value of the assets; and if we disregard the item of interest, which must also grow so long as those in charge of the railway enterprise in India continue in the present outlook regarding railways as an earning asset, and accordingly go on pushing that enterprise in all directions and conditions.

But perhaps it would be invidious to strike this note of very slight discord at this moment, when in most respects the railway budget seems a happy performance. The new year for which budget estimates are now presented is provided for on a note of subdued, if well founded, optimism. Having contributed to the general revenues of the country in the current year some 6 1|2 crores,—a good figure, which ought to ensure Sir Basil Blackett's last budget to be another surplus budget, the Railway Board proposes to assume the same scale of receipts, on, however, a definitely lowered scale of rates in many important cases. The welcome relief to the third class passenger will be hailed with delight all over the country, the only regret, if there be any, being that it has come so late, and after such a wait. The reductions on luggage and parcels rates, as well as the goods charges on some specified commodities are also praiseworthy features in this budget, though a closer analysis may show a process of selection favouring somewhat unduly the exporting interests. However, on this basis the budget for the coming year still shows a strong and promising position. Given a normal year in respect of rainfall, there is no reason why the estimates of traffic returns should not be realised, though the revenues sacrificed under the reductions in rates just noticed is estimated to amount to over 3 crores, except in so far as the same may be set off by a stimulus in traffic due just precisely to these reductions in rates. The critics of the Government of India have time and again impressed upon the powers-that-be that in many of their so-called commercial departments, they are charging on a principle, which is bound to be fatal to its own success; that there is such a thing in public economy as the law of diminishing returns; and that in the postal as well as the railway rates, there are many cases in which the rate-making authority displays a gross ignorance of this most elementary principle of public economy. Chastened, let us hope, by their past experience, Government Departments seem to be learning the lesson, if this budget is any indication. It is to be hoped that next week the chief financial authority in India, the Finance Member, will bear this in mind while introducing the Central Budget, especially in regard to the quarter-anna post-card, which was for so long a time a justly proud peculiarity of the Indian Post Office, and whose abolition acts as such an unfair tax on the least able of the people of India. To take up the tale of the railways budget, however, we expect next year to have this department still further reducing the operating costs, though the total expenses will unavoidably grow thanks to the increasing interest charge and the higher depreciation provision. The general revenues of the country will, however, under this budget estimate benefit less than in the current year, beaing 5 1|2 crores as against 6 1|2 crores of this year. But perhaps the factors which improved upon the original estimates for the current year may also operate in favour of the year about to commence, and to show at the end much better results than cautious conservative financing will permit the Railway authorities to show at this moment.

On the capital side of Railway expenditure, Government seem to be bent upon going ahead with programmes of intensive improvements on existing lines, as well as fresh construction, which leaves no indication to hope that they have even now realised the effective possibility of there being a more economical alternative to railway transportation better suited to the needs of this country. This is the more surprising when one remembers that actually at the moment there is sitting and deliberating a Government of India Committee for the improvement of ordinary roads in the country. The road is fast coming into its own in other countries, and there is no reason to doubt it will have the same revival in this. There is, besides, the still untried field of water communication about which the Government of India have shown themselves very lukewarm, but whose utility to the transport needs of the country cannot possibly be questioned. We mention all these alternatives, because the fuller development of each of them would mean money. And if the Government of India go on spending at the rate they do on the further improvements of their railway enterprise, would they not be implicitly prejudging the issue, and precluding the possibility of a proper investigation of more suitable alternatives? Specifically, there is nothing in the capital programme to call for criticism were it not the case of the through communication between Bombay-and-Sind. We are glad Government will wait pending receipt of full particulars about costs and returns and possibilities, before going on with this venture.

STAR CHAMBER JUSTICE.

An issue of grave consequence to public liberty and one which jeopardises the status and rights of the Princes is involved in the summary and arbitrary manner in which the Government of India have dealt with what they call the "disloyal activities" of Maharajah Gurucharan Singh of Nabha by punishing him without trial with deportation to Kodaikanal and reducing his pension. Was the Chamber of Princes consulted in the matter? A Prince should have the right, just like a commoner, of the case against him being properly tried with a jury of members of his own order to assist the cause of justice. In the present case the Government of India function both as the accusers and the judges. The theatrical manner in which Maharajah Gurucharan Singh was whisked away from Allahabad and the evident glee with which correspondents of Anglo-Indian papers describe the discomfiture of his followers are sure to add to the public resentment against this latest act of official autocracy.

Indian opinion will regard this exhibition of autocratic conduct on the part of the Government of India as an attempt to humiliate the Maharajah of Nabha in the eyes of his countrymen. The peculiar method adopted of acquainting him with the official ukase at a railway station will only be regarded by the public as evidence of a desire to subject him to such humiliation. The result will be just the contrary. Public interest and sympathy will naturally be attracted towards a high personage who by a stroke of the official pen finds himself turned from a Maharajah into Mr. Gurucharan Singh. He is charged with "disloyal activities" by the Government of India in their communique. The public are entitled to know the precise nature of these activities. Was the Maharajah engaged in seeking to overthrow the mighty fabric of the British Empire or did his offence consist only in incurring the dispicasure of particular officials?" "Disloyal" is a vague expression. A recent judgment by a Civilian judge of the Bombay High Court lays down that emphasizing the foreign nature of British rule is not to be construed as disaffection against Government. It will be hard for the public to believe that the Maharajah of Nabha whose immediate and all-absorbing concern was to secure the restoration of his rights and try to regain his gadi would involve himself in activities which can rightly be called disloyal. The Government of India owe it to the public to accord him a public trial before his peers instead of dealing with him in the unjust and oppressive manner in which the Bengal detenus are treated under a lawless Ordinance.

Notes of the Day

Simon The Seer.

The chairman of the Statutory mission says in an interview with representatives at Calcutta that it is good being prophetic". But he is cious of his qualities as a seer. "It a clear view," he says, "of what is to happen." Content with "what happened so far," he regards the Assy decision as only a "misfortune". e Commission, he tells the pressmen plenty of patience, good temper and sire to do our best to be helpful", re are three essential ingredients so ble for the preservation and developm of those vested interests in India who have hailed the Commission with such enthusiasm. Why should these seven "ts" of India upon whom eight lakhs a be spent be impatient or ill-tempered they have no need to be. Their wor cut out before them, and at the expe of the Indian tax payer they can get up it in a leisurely manner. That is to see that British interests are in India.

Ray of Hope.

After the decision by the Native Assembly to boycott the Statu Commission, the prospect would ha been dark, indeed, for all friends of I from abroad whose only wish is to see peace, plenty and prosperity for the ryots, the ignorant masses of this land must be spared the attentions of "tors" —it would have been but f ray of hope. The "Times of In has discovered it. "We might despair of any progress ever being made towards the goal in view," it says, "but unate-ly. . . . outside the Assembthere is a great and growing body of on inclined to co-operate with the commission". There are some wondly elastic qualities about this great growing body. The bigger it is made to be in the Anglo-Indian Press and Tory cousins, the smaller it is in re. But like an India rubber ball it ce made to inflate under official inspir and the encouragement of Anglo-I and its Press. That is how mushroAssociations are born to welcome the mission, bodies which will collapse whenent it is gone.

"Tukoji-Miller Marriage."

In the "Chronicle" of 17th inst we published an Indore letter from our correspondent in the course of h it was stated: "It is reported that Javalkar was paid Rs. 500 for ini expenses in this conversion." As pvious, in referring to a report our corrndent did not make, much less had anyention of making, any imputation againMr. Javalkar. That report, we are imed, is entirely baseless. We ly give publicity to this contradictiond regret that the report was publis in the "Chronicle".

COMMISSION, "NO AFFRONT" TO INDIA.

PARLIAMENT THE SUPREME AUTHORITY

SIR LESLIE WILSON ON BOYCOTT

HIS HOPE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

In the course of his inaugural address to the Budget session of the Bombay Legislative Council, His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson after referring to salient features of the administration, education, etc., and the unsatisfactory condition of the Presidency's finances, reminded the Honourable Members that, though it was within his power to disallow the resolutions on the Commission, "I certainly do not propose to do it as I welcome the fullest discussion on a matter of such importance." His Excellency contended that by the appointment of the Commission "no sort of affront was intended to Indian sentiment." "I cannot help feeling," said His Excellency, "that there will be, among the British elected representatives, a feeling of keen and not unnatural disappointment" whose effect would be to retard the political advance of this country. His Excellency in concluding expressed the hope that "it is not too late for some mutual understanding to be arrived at which must of course be in consonance with the Constitution under which we act now, whereby the representatives of the British Parliament and the representatives of Indian political opinion can give each of their best to recommending such proposals as will have the result of evolving a Constitution satisfactory to both, and one which will advance the happiness and prosperity of the millions who live in this land."

This year's budget session of the Bombay Legislative Council opened at the Town Hall, Bombay, on Monday afternoon, the Hon. Mr. A. M. K. Dehlavi presiding. The atmosphere in the House was surchargeed with intense expectancy when the proceedings began. The attendance of the members was very thin as many members from the far-off parts of the Presidency had not arrived on the first day. The Swarajist members were conspicuous by their absence. Most of them were present in the lobby, but they did not participate in the proceedings of the day, pending instructions from the President of the Congress as regards the future course of their action. It is understood that Mr. K. F. Nariman, the Leader of the Swaraj Party in the Council, has wired to the Congress President asking the latter's advice as regards the conduct of the Congressmen in the Council and the instructions of the President are anxiously awaited. The leanness of the members' attendance, however, was more than compensated by the over-crowded visitors' galleries in which quite a number of ladies were to be seen. Except for the installation of loud speakers, the arrangement in the meeting hall was just the same as before.

The proceedings commenced at 2 p.m. when the following 5 new members were duly sworn in. Messrs. D. R. H. Browne, Joint Secretary to Government Public Works Department, R. D. Bell, Secretary Government Development Department, J. P. Brander, the Commissioner of Excise, William B. Hossack, representing Commerce and Industry, Karachi, and H. L. Painter, the Commissioner, Southern Division. Mr. G. S. Rajadhyaksha was to be seen in the Secretary's Chair in place of Mr. N. J. Wadia who has been appointed a special officer for preparing the case of the Government of Bombay to be submitted to the Statutory Commission.

The President of the Council then nominated the following honourable members for the panel of chairmen.

Mr. J. B. Petit, Mr. G. L. Winterbotham, Mr. Noor Mohamad and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

It was then announced that the following enactments had obtained the assent of the Governor.

Act to amend several enactments and to repeal several enactments.

Bombay District Police Act, the Bombay City Municipalities Act, the Bombay Local Boards Act, the Bombay Children's Act, the Bombay Port Trust Act, the Bombay Primary Education Act, the Madhul Creek Act and the Act for the regulation of Cotton Markets.

The House then adjourned till the arrival of His Excellency, the Governor.

Exactly at 2-30 p.m., His Excellency, the Governor, arrived at the Town Hall in his conventional State drive and was ceremoniously received by the President of the Council. His Excellency's inaugural address was listened to by all the members present, to whatever party they belonged, with rapt attention. The conclusion of the Governor's address was received with a loud applause. At 3 p.m. the House adjourned for tea recess.

PROCEEDINGS IN DETAIL.

LATE MR HARCHANDRAI.

The Council reassembled after recess when the President made a touching reference to the sad demise of Mr. Harchandrai,, M.L.A., of Karachi and expressed his deepest regrets for it. The late Mr. Harchandrai, he said, was an eminent member of this Presidency, besides being a personal friend of many a member of the Council. His life was marked by a high sense of patriotism which was, the President added, discernible in all the multifarious national activities in which he took part during his life time. Sir Chunilal Mehta on behalf of the house associated himself and the Government with the sentiments expressed by the President. Mr. B. G. Pahaljani, Mouiavi Rafiuddin Ahmed, Mr. B. V. Jadhav and Rao Bahadur Kale echoed the sentiments of grief on behalf of their respective parties. After this half an hour was given to the interpellations.

RETIRING COUNCIL SECRETARY.

Before calling upon the finance member to introduce the budget, the President made a short speech warmly congratulating Mr. N. J. Wadia, the ex-Secretary of the Council, on the invaluable services he had rendered to the Council. Mr. Wadia's services, the President added, had been requisitioned by Government in another department. The duties of a Council Secretary, the President opined, were very arduous but despite that fact Mr. Wadia had discharged them in a most satisfactory manner. His relations with the members had been very cordial. The President then expressed the regrets of the House for having to part with Mr. Wadia's services. He hoped that the new Secretary, Mr. G. S. Rajadhyaksha, would prove to be a worthy successor to Mr. Wadia.

Sir Chunilal V. Mehta, the Finance

(Continued from page 9.)

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MISS MAYO?

AUSTRALIAN LADY WRITER'S VISIT TO INDIA

GOVT. OFFICIALS TO HELP HER IN EVERY WAY

CALCUTTA, Feb. 20.

The 'Arita Bazar Patrika' publishes a confidential letter addressed by the Secretary to the Government of India to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal which says inter Alia that Miss Alice Schalek, an Austrian writer will be visiting India shortly and intends to publish an account of her experiences, and the Government of India desires that she should receive such facilities for carrying the subjects of her visit and request the District authorities to help her in every way.

The letter concludes with a request to the Bengal Government to convey the warning to Miss Schadek that in view of the publication of Miss Mayo's work she may be regarded with suspicion by the Indians and that she should be cautious in her enquiries and actirrities. Generally it is understood, says the "Patrika", similar letters are in circulation among officials in other provinces.—Free Press.

MAHATMAJI'S HEALTH

DOCTORS EXPRESS SATISFACTION

SABARMATI Feb. 20.

Mahatma Gandhi continues to make progress. The doctors who examined him last evening express satisfaction with the condition of his blood pressure and pulse. He has however been advised further complete rest and visitors are not permitted to see him.—A. P.

SWARAJ PARTY IN BOMBAY COUNCIL

ENLISTING CO-OPERATION OF OTHER MEMBERS

RESOLUTION ON PROCEDURE OF WORK

A Meeting of the Swaraj party, was held at the Council Hall on Monday afternoon when the following members were present: Messrs. K. F. Nariman, B. T. Desai, J. R. Patel, M. D. Karki, Haribhai Amin, F. G. Ginwala and G. I. Patel.

The following resolution was unanimously carried:

Resolved that the members of the party are not to attend this first day at the time of the Governor's speech and the presentation of the budget, but they can take part in the general discussion of the budget for criticising and discrediting the policy of the Government. No resolutions are to be moved or questions to be put. Th euniversity bill is to be opposed Also the bill amending the Stamp act is to be opposed in the interest of the public. No compromise is to be accepted on these two bills. We are not to support any Government bill or measure."

"ASSOCIATE MEMBERS" OF SWARAJ PARTY.

No decision has been yet arrived at as regards the attitude of the party towards the demands for grants. The party has at present a total strength of 11 members but the party whips have been doing their level best to enlist the sympathy of several other members of the House by enrolling them as the "Associate Members" of the Swaraj party. It is hoped that the party will soon be in a position to command a strength of nearly 20 members. It is understood that the Associate Members of the party have reserved to themselves the liberty of action and will abide only by those resolutions of the party, to which they have individually given their assent.

"BALDWIN AND WE ARE ONE"

"DAILY HERALD" FURTHER EXPLAINS

ASSEMBLY DECISION UPSETS BRITISH LABOUR

TIMES' ON BRITAIN'S SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY"

LONDON, Feb. 20.

In an article the "Daily Herald" says that despite the Legislative Assembly's vote on the Simon Commission, friends of India in Britain earnestly hope that, that decision is not the last word in the matter. The paper draws hopeful conclusion from Lala Lajpat Rai's statement in the Assembly that Nationalist leaders are prepared to discuss the issues. It continues: "It is necessary that all sections of opinion in India should realise that the Labour Party in Britain holds strongly to the view that the only possible line of advance lies along mutual co-operative effort between the Simon Commission and an Indian Commission of equal status. This has been stated again and again by authoritative spokesmen of British labour. People in Britain who encourage the belief in India that the policy of official opposition and of an alternative Government to Baldwin's administration is contrary to that enunciated by its accredited spokesmen are doing both countries a disservice. If that belief has supported the boycott movement it is well that it should be dispelled." The paper hopes that other reasons behind the boycott are not insuperable.—Reuter.

initiated by the reforms reached its goal? The Simon Commission has gone out to study that very question. The authors and supporters of Saturday's resolution apparently assume that the question has already been settled, that the Indian Parliament, as far as India is concerned, is in fact an equal of the British Parliament. That of course is true neither in law nor in fact, but it is just as well that this fundamental issue is stated so sharply at the beginning of the Commission's work."

The paper emphasises that the British Parliament has not relinquished, nor is likely to relinquish for some time to come its special responsibility for the political evolution of India.

COMMUNALISM AGAIN!

Dwelling on the possible effects of the resolution, it remarks that barren extremism in India has never been less supported in Britain, while in India itself the atmosphere is most unfavourable to a prolonged agitation for an abstruse political purpose. It expresses the opinion that there is a very great risk that a sharp divergence between Hindu and Moslem views regarding the Commission may intensify communal strife. It concludes by suggesting that unity in negation is not likely to last long. Gradually, individuals and groups will break from the policy of giving scope merely to destructive action. Meanwhile the Commission will go forward with its appointed task and its reception by different sections of the Indian community will furnish an important test of their capacity for a larger instalment of self-Government.

"ALTERNATIVE OF BLANK NEGATION."

The "Manchester Guardian" in a leader points out that supporters of the boycott policy have hitherto offered no counter-proposals to those suggested by Sir John Simon. It expresses the opinion that where an alternative is a blank negation, more reasonable elements of the Indian population are likely to utilise the instrument at hand, however, great their theoretical objections to it.—Reuter.

MORE EXPULSIONS OF TROTSKYITS

LONDON, Feb. 20.

Riga.—The Moscow newspaper "Pravda" reports that hundred more "incorrigibles" in various parts of Russia, who sympathise with Trotsky have been expelled.—Reuter.

A QUESTION OF STATUS

"TIMES" ON ASSEMBLY'S BOYCOTT RESOLUTION

LONDON, Feb. 20.

A question of status is involved in the Assemblys boycott resolution says the "Times". "Has the process of devolution

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

1927-28		1928-29	
	Rs.		Rs.
REVENUE	14,14 lakhs	REVENUE	13,99 lakhs
EXPENDITURE	14,17 lakhs	EXPENDITURE	14,33 lakhs
DEFICIT	3 lakhs	DEFICIT	34 lakhs
CLOSING BALANCE	2,53	CLOSING BALANCE	1,69

That the Provincial contribution of Rs. 37 lakhs will be remitted is practically certain and Goverment have framed their Budget on this expectation. As, however, no official announcement on the subject can be made until after the Central Budget is presented to the Legislative Assembly on February 29, the Bombay Budget, as presented, shows a 'deficit' of Rs. 34 lakhs. The remission of the contribution of Rs. 37 lakhs will turn this deficit into a 'surplus of Rs. 3 lakhs.' Had it not been necessary to await the official announcement by the Government of India, the Bombay Budget, as printed, would have shown this surplus instead of a formal deficit of 34 lakhs. But this is so only as regards the ordinary revenue and expenditure are expenditure. Taking the total Provincial Receipts and Expenditure into consideration, we find that there will be a deficit of Rs. 76 lakhs or, omitting the Provincial contribution, of 39 lakhs—the total revenue being Rs. 15,73 lakhs and the total expenditure being Rs. 16,49 lakhs.

SWARAJISTS ABSENT FROM BENGAL COUNCIL

SIR JOHN AND HIS COLLEAGUES PAY A SHORT-VISIT.

CALCUTTA. Feb. 20.

The Swarajists were absent from the Legislative Council to-day as usual. Sir John Simon and members of the Statutory Commission were present but left before the budget was presented. The Hon. Mr. A. Marr then presented a deficit budget.—A. P.

REALISATION OF OPPOSITION.

FUTILE ATTEMPT TO EVADE BOYCOTT DEMONSTRATION.

BENARES, Feb. 20.

It was first thought that the Simon Commission on its way to Calcutta would get down at the Benares Cantonment Station where a large body of policemen had been posted, but a few minutes before the arrival it was rumoured that the Commission would get down at the level crossing which is a mile and a half above the station. Soon a number of demonstrators with black flags marched to that place and when the members of the Commission got down there were shouts of "Go Back, Shame, shame".

It is reported that the special train arrived at Benares Cantonment Station and was received with the hostile demonstrations which were reserved for members of the Commission who, however, had got down on the way. It is stated that the Commission halted at Benares in response to the invitation of the Maharaja of Benares.

The shops of the Chowk were closed when the Commission visited that place.—A. P.

HINDU-MUSLIM RELATIONS

PLEA FOR AMICABLE SETTLEMENT

ALLAHABAD, Feb. 19.

The Conference of the Muslim members of the Legislative Council, the Municipal and District Boards of the United Provinces, began to-day at the Mayo Hall, Dr. Shafat Ahmed Khan, M.L.C., presiding. A number of delegates from various parts of the province attended.

Mr. Zahur Ahmed, M.L.C., Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcomed the delegates. In the course of his address, he drew attention to the element of distrust between the Hindus and Mahomedans prevailing in a greater degree than it was ten years ago. Coming to the question of the Statutory Commission, he said the Commission had been appointed at a time when there was a sort of civil war between the most important communities of India. His view was that the Muslims should present their demands before the Commission. He said that the best course for them would be to draw up their demands, go to their Hindu brethren, place their demands and arrive at an amicable setlement. If no settlement was arrived at, the Muslims should place the demands before the Commission. Mr. Zahur Ahmed summarised the Muslim demands as maintenance of separate representation or electorates and their further extension, formation into separate provinces of places where the Muslims were in majority but lacked chances of progress, constitution of Sind into a separate province, and increased opportunities for participation in the administration of the country. He concluded by saying that the letter of Sir John Simon had to a certain extent removed the suspicion and distrust propagated against the Commission.

The President, Dr. Shafat Ahmed Khan, dealing with the Statutory Commission, said that if India lost this opportunity, she would not have a single friend left in England. He warned the Muslim community and the country against the suicidal policy of boycott. He advanced strongly the claims of the Muslims for separate electorates for safeguarding the interests of the Muslims in the Legislatures and local bodies. He stressed that it should be retained at a time when the Muslim community had not reached the same economic and educational level as the other communities and when there had not developed sufficient confidence, toleration and trust between the two communities.

NO RELIGIOUS QUARREL.

In conclusion, Dr. Khan emphasised the necessity for cool and dispassionate consideration of very delicate and extremely complex problems. In attempting to formulate decisions and organise their programme, the President appealed to them not to forget two things. One was that the Hinduism enshrined a culture and represented ideals, of which every Indian ought to be proud. He appealed to the Muslims to study the distinctive features of this religion. He said that his devotion to Islam was immeasurably increased by his knowledge of the religion and culture of the sister community. Their quarrel was not a religious quarrel, but it concerned only in material things with which religion as such should have no concern. They demanded as a community, certain rights in the administration of the country and they based them strictly on principles o justice and equity. They did not wish to create a privileged caste or class of themselves. "Live and let live is our motto."—A. P.

His Excellency the Governor of Bombay and Lady Wilson attended Sir Chimanlal Setalvad's 'At Home' at the Convocation Hall on Monday.

SATYAGRAHA CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

BARDOLI ORGANISING ITSELF

NOTICES SERVED ON 15 LANDHOLDERS

(From Our Correspondent).

BARDOLI, Feb. 20

The people of the Bardoli Taluka are busy organising themselves in order to meet coming struggle. Mr. Naranji Durlabhji Patel of Vankaner a man of considerable influence in his own village, as also in his community, has raised a corps of 51 volunteers to serve Vankaner and five neighbouring villages during Satyagraha. Doctor Chandulal of Broach has pitched his camp in Valod. He will organise local young men there and followed by them, will control things in Raniparaj District.

Ten days' notices were served only on fifteen landholders of Valod and not on fifty as reported yesterday. They are all bania gentlemen, each holding a hundred and more Bighas of land and include among them strong Satyagrahi's.

REPORTS ENCOURAGING.

Mr. Ravishankar Vyas, well-known worker among Dharala tribe, has come to join Mr. Vallabhbhai's ranks and after addressing meetings in Bardoli and Valod, is now touring villages in Sarbhon group.

Reports received from Raniparaj villages are encouraging enough. They are the greatest sufferers having to face the prospech of with 60 to 66 per cent enhancement.

HINDU-MUSLIM UNITY

ACCEPTABLE FORMULA TO BE FOUND

MALAVIYA AND OTHERS TO DECIDE.

NEW DELHI, Feb 19.

The All-parties' Conference resumed discussion of the Hindu-Muslim question and deliberated for five hours this afternoon. No outsider was allowed to be present at the meeting, and the press was strictly excluded. It is understood that the atmosphere to-day was favourable to the acceptance of a formula on the question of joint electorates. The proposals discussed were on the lines of those put forward by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Pandit Malaviya and Mr. Jinnah. The details of the formula are not available, but is it said that it provides for joint electorates with reservation of seats for minorities, and ecective safeguards for their interests, and that the provinces of India should be redistributed and constituted on a linguistic basis, provided the majority of the population is not opposed to such redistribution, and further, that each province should, as far as possible, be financially self-supporting.

An unconfirmed report states that certain persons belonging to the Hindu Mahasabha, including Dr. Moonje, Messrs. Jayakar and Kelkar and Lala Lajpat Rai have left the question of the formula to be threshed out between Pandit Malaviya on their behalf and the rest of the Conference. No conclusions were reached today at the Conference, but informal discussions among the leaders continue.—A. P.

TRIBUTE TO MAHATMA AND HIS FOLLOWERS

ANOTHER DEFICIT BUDGET

BOMBAY'S SHRINKING BALANCES

SIR CHUNILAL'S LAST BUDGET SPEECH.

Sir Chunilal V. Mehta introduced his second and last budget in the Bombay Legislative Council on Monday. The budget is once again a deficit budget. The ordinary revenue budgeted is Rs. 13,99 lakhs while the expenditure is estimated at Rs. 14,33 lakhs, leaving a deficit of 34 lakhs. It is a certainty that the Provincial contribution of Rs. 37 lakhs will be remitted thus turning the deficit into a surplus of 3 lakhs. But the total Provincial receipts and expenditure are estimated at Rs. 15,73,58,000 and Rs. 16.49.33.000 leaving a deficit of Rs. 76,25,000. The repeated deficits are due largely to the activities of the Development and absence of real retrenchment in the spending Departments. There is a net decrease of Rs. 93 lakhs in the budgeted revenue for 1927-28 which was only partly made by a decrease in expenditure of Rs. 51 lakhs, the important decreases being of 56 lakhs in Land Revenue, 11 lakhs in Excise and 18 lakhs in Stamps owing to depression of trade which the Finance Member deplored. Over 7 crores have already been spent on the Sukkur Barrage, and next year's budget provides for an expenditure of Rs. 206.7 lakhs. Provision is made for borrowing Rs. 272 lakhs for the Barrage; the total borrowing for the next year will be Rs. 423.5 lakhs. Rs. 32-1|2 lakhs will be paid as subsidy from next year's revenue to write off the loss on Back Bay.

Under arrangements with the Government of India the annual famine contribution has been reduced from Rs. 63 lakhs to Rs. 12 lakhs. So far as nation-building activities are concerned, there is little expansion. The expenditure on education is increased by 4 lakhs to 209 lakhs. But there is no retrenchment in the spending Departments, the expenditure on General Administration is increased by 3 lakhs to Rs. 223 lakhs and that on Police by 7 lakhs to Rs. 170 lakhs.

The Hon. Sir Chunilal V. Mehta introduced the provincial budget for 1928-29 in the Bombay Legislative Council yesterday. In the course of his speech he said:—

UNFAVOURABLE AGRICULTURAL SEASON.

The agricultural season turned out to be considerably worse than the unfavourable anticipations already made by Government at budget time with the consequence that the collections of land revenue were the lowest on record since the Reforms. In the uncertain conditions of last year, it was difficult to frame an accurate estimate even so late as January; and the House was informed that the situation was being carefully watched by the Hon. the Revenue Member. Suspensions and remissions were freely given, both in the Presidency proper and in Sind, the collections showing a drop of 56 lakhs. This heavy decrease gives little justification for the fear that has sometimes been expressed that the local revenue officials are merciless in their collections and relentless in screwing them up to the estimates which they have reported to Government.

Under Land Revenue there is an increase of 15 lakhs which the revenue officers hope to collect owing to the heavy arrears of last and previous years.

THE GUJARAT FLOODS.

It is usual to give a brief review of the character of the last monsoon; but I propose to dispense with in partly because after the monsoon season is over the crops have still to pass through various risks, such as frost, locusts, and other insect pests and partly because the intensity of the rainfall and the consequent floods in Gujarat and Sind practically overshadowed everything else. Happily these risks are not of frequent occurrence but they badly upset estimates when they do occur. The serious effect on our revenue in the past year has already been referred to. In the current year the damage done by the floods to Kharif crops in Gujarat and Sind was so serious that resowing was found to be necessary over a large area. In several places in Sind water stood for such a long time that even resowing was not practicable. Locusts again made an attack in Thar Parkar and Nawabshah districts.

Had conditions in Gujarat not improved after the middle of August, the prospect would have been dark indeed. It has been reported that the damage to land in Gujarat owing to silting, etc, has fortunately not turned out as serious or as exensive as originally feared and the deterioration is not likely to be permanent. 4,000 acres were reported as affected. About half of this area has been carefully inspected and surveyed and it is found that less than one-third of that has been damaged and that not badly. The classification of these lands has been lowered, on an average, by about two annas.

EFFECT ON PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

The effect on our finances owing to the unprecedented calamity of the floods was explained to the Council in October last when a demand for supplementary grant was made. The terms of free grants, tagavi advances for restoration of land and for the purchase of seed and cattle, and of loans for the reconstruction of houses are now well-known as well as the concession as to the lowering and remission of interest on tagavi and reconstruction loans. There has been, as the Council will realise, a very serious draft on our balances, both famine and other, by the provisions which have been freely made.

A sum of over 10 1|2 lakhs is being spent on free grants.

For advances the Council sanctioned a sum of 80 lakhs from the Famine Fund and a sum of Rs. 63.53 lakhs from the balances.

Later figures received show that the amount required from the Famine Fund will be 85.22 lakhs of which 69.82 lakhs will be for Gujarat and 15.40 lakhs for Sind.

Under the Provincial Advance and Loan Account the total sum will amount to 71.15 lakhs of which 38.64 lakhs will be for Gujarat and 32.51 lakhs for Sind.

The excess amounts have been necessitated by the relief required in Sind where, in addition to the large sums advanced as tagavi for seed and agricultural purposes, money for house-building and repairing has been allotted through the Revenue Department amounting to 12 1|2 lakhs and through Co-operative Societies amounting to 14 lakhs.

In addition to the above sums for Flood relief work, we have had to spend over 3 1|2 lakhs for repairing roads and buildings and over 2 1|2 lakhs for tanks and embankments: and demands for assistance have been received and are still coming in from District Local Boards. Rs. 75,000 have already been sanctioned as a grant to the District Local Boards of Hyderabad and Thar Parkar for roads. Other grants for repairs or reconstruction of school buildings have also been recently sanctioned in Gujarat and Sind.

Loans on such an extensive scale to a very large number of persons have not been given before in the case of those who have no agricultural land to offer as security and to whom loans cannot be granted under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. I think it will be agreed that Government should be properly secured and that they should not be in the position of ordinary lenders or be under the necessity of having recourse to law courts as in the case of ordinary mortgages. The Honourable Member, Revenue Department, proposes to introduce a Bill in the current session for the recovery of such loans as arrears of land revenue. This legislation, if passed, will place such persons on the same footing as agriculturists receiving loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act.

And here I may be allowed a little digression. The manner in which the flood calamity, which was as widespread as it was unexpected, was met is a tribute to the well-known charity and public spirit of this Presidency. In a tract of comparatively light rainfall a veritable deluge descended for three or four days causing destruction to people's possessions, their food supply and their houses. Streams and rivulets became raging torrents; roads, bridges and railways were destroyed. The immediate work of relief required courage, promptness and resource. Bands of enthusiastic volunteers carried help to the distressed and the stranded, in some cases prevented possible loss of life, arranged for the conveyance of food and clothing with a cheerfulness and promptitude which excite admiration.

TRIBUTE TO MAHATMA'S FOLLOWERS.

Business-absorbed Gujarat, till a few years ago, could scarcely boast of self-sacrificing social public work. It must be an intense satisfaction to Mahatma Gandhi that his labours for the creation of a band of selfless workers to be pioneers of missionary social activities particularly in the rural areas have met with an ample response, and that the volunteers mostly drawn from the Vidyapith should have acquitted themselves so creditably in the absence of their beloved leader in the face of an unforeseen calamity. How the mantle was at once taken by Mr. Vallabhbhai Patel and with what energy he carried out his plan of work is now well-known. These workers belong to the old school of no-changers: and it is gratifying that they felt that this was no time to oppose or keep aloof from Government. I trust that their experience has not been unpleasant; and I am sure that it is only through the understanding of each other's point of view that the work both of relief and of reconstruction has been so successful and the interests of the people have not been sacrificed in an atmosphere of suspicion and bickering. It is natural that on the first occasion of joint effort like this the exact limits of executive responsibility, which every Government must observe, may not be fully understood; but on the whole it is a relief for me to say that the occasions of disagreement have been very few and that officers who have themselves striven zealously in the work of relief, have welcomed the assistance and have endeavoured, as far as they possibly could, to meet the requests of the unofficial workers. It is my sincere hope that the atmosphere for missionary service created by Mahatma Gandhi will be permanent and that there will be many occasions, but not of this unfortunate character, for Government and non-officials to work for a comon purpose: for it is by this alone that the true interests of the people can be properly served.

The Central Relief Fund Committee have also looked at all questions with the utmost sympathy and it is due to the joint effort of all these that relief was so promptly given and funds for reconstruction distributed on so larg en scale. And I should be guilty of a serious omission if I did not refer to the courage, faith, cheerfulness and resource of the ryot in Gujarat in face of this dire calamity. Nothing struck me more forcibly than this remarkable fact in my early visit to the affected areas

Adequate relief has also been provided in the stricken areas of Sind. Non-official Committees tried to do their best in their different conditions and circumstances. For reconstruction of houses a great deal more is being done in Sind through the agency of Co-operative Societies both housing and the ordinary agricultural Credit Societies, than in Gujarat.

291 LAKHS OF TAINTED REVENUE.

In regard to Excise, the anticipations made last year have not been realised, the revenue having gone down from 400 lakhs to 386 lakhs. It is difficult to assign any specific reasons; but there is no doubt that consumption has gone down. Vend fees have also been affected by the experiment tried in the previous year for the first time, of holding simultaneous auctions at all places on the same day. It is true that this experiment was abandoned in the current year, but the decision was taken so late that there was hardly sufficient time for notice of this change to reach the prospective bidders and it is quite likely that competition in the auctions was on that account less keen than that it might otherwise have been. It is difficult to recommend on any other hypothesis a drop in the Vend Fees with the theory that successive decreases in the rationed amounts lead only to less competition, ought to be willing to pay shopkeepers are greater owing to enhanced prices. If that is really the effect, shopkeepers, assuming there is proper competition, ought to be willing to pay more for their shops and Vend Fees ought to go up.

The estimate for the next year has been placed at 391 lakhs and is 5 lakhs more than the revised estimate of the current year, though it falls short by 9 lakhs of the budgeted figure of the current year. It is hoped that the Vend Fees will improve.

The Report of the Prohibition Committee dealing with the financial aspect of the question has been submitted to Government. It raises many interesting and far-reaching questions. The Honourable Minister expects to issue orders shortly upon it.

DEPRESSION IN TRADE.

In regard to our other big revenue-earning head—the Stamp Revenue—we have again to record a drop from 187 to 174 lakhs for which the unsatisfactory state of trade appears to be responsible. As the drop is substantial I have examined the figures of other Provinces to see whether any other reason can be found which can be dealt with by Government.

The Finance Member of Bengal in his speech last year stated that the fall under stamps was likely to be as much as 28 lakhs in the revised estimates of 1926-27; and he gave as the reasons general trade depression, fall in the price of jute and to some extent the effect of the riots.

That the depression in trade and commerce seems to be the cause of the decline in Stamp revenue is also borne out by the fact that it is in the industrial provinces that the estimates have declined while in the agricultural provinces there seems to have been indeed some slight improvement. Thus, Madras showed an increase of one lakh, Assam of 1 1|4 lakhs, Bihar and Orissa was stationary, while the decrease of 1 lakh in the United Provinces was explained by the Finance Member to be mainly due to the uncertainty caused by recent rent and revenue legislation owing to which cases were being held back. The decrease of 10 lakhs in the Punjab was in a great measure due to a reduction of taxation.

Paragraph 3 of Secretary's note in the Blue Book shows that in the current year there is likely to be a net increase of expenditure over revenue of 12 lakhs. If we exclude the Industrial Housing Scheme and the Famine Relief transactions, the ordinary revenue in the current year is likely to fall by 26 lakhs counterbanlanced by a fall in the expenditure of 21 lakhs. The decrease in expenditure has been shared by most departments, the principal ones being: Irrigation 6 lakhs, General Administration 3 lakhs, Transfers from the Reserve 7 lakhs. These 7 lakhs were utilised in meeting the following additional expenditure: Administration of Justice one lakh, Forest Capital Outlay three lakhs. Other Heads three lakhs. In the current year we had provided a sum of 3 lakhs on capital outlay which was intended to be met from loan money, as mentioned in the Blue Book last year. To this head are debited principally Roads and Communications. They are distinctly revenue-earning. There are many tracts in our extensive forests where exploitation of timber is not possible without the building or roads.

The net result is that we expect to close the current year with a balance of 254 lakhs as follows:—

Famine Fund, 181 lakhs.

Loan Balance, nil.

The ordinary balance being 73 lakhs.

272 LAKHS FOR SUKKUR BARRAGE.

It is proposed to borrow 272 lakhs for the Sukkur Barrage in the next year, which includes 14.35 lakhs for interest on the advance of 123 lakhs for three years since it was made.

Other irrigation Schemes will cost us 24.7 lakhs.

For the Development it is intended to borrow 77 lakhs inclusive of 2 lakhs for advance to private individuals under the State-aided building Schemes and one lakh as loan to Co-operative Housing Societies. The interest and sinking fund charges for that department will amount to 92.44 lakhs out of which, as explained later, general revenues will give a subsidy of 32 1|2 lakhs, to write off the loss on the Back Bay, the Suburban Schemes and the Housing Schemes.

For other purposes we shall require 49.91 lakhs mostly for civil works.

The total borrowings for the next year will therefore amount to 423.5 lakhs.

BOMBAY'S DEBT POSITION.

Let us analyse our debt position. Our total debt borrowings up to the end of the next year will have amounted to 28.9 crores.

Of this sum 898 lakhs, or about one-third, is for the Sukkur Barrage and is expected to be recouped by sales of land.

Thirteen crores are for the Development Department to be recouped mostly by land sales, the anticipated loss being amortised by a subvention of 32 1|2 lakhs from the general revenues.

THE FAMINE FUND.

On the 1st of April, 1927, the Famine Fund stood at 242 lakhs.

In the current year, as the Council is aware, we provided an assignment of 33.69 lakhs.

Honourable Members will notice that in the next year's budget no provision has been made for assignment to the Famine Insurance Fund and that the usual sum of 10 lakhs for interest on the Sukkur Barrage debt is being met from ordinary revenues.

In 1926 at the Finance Members' Conference at Delhi the general question was raised whether the contributions to the Fund, which were fixed on the basis of 1908 figures, were not excessive in present circumstances. The Government of India examined the whole question in detail for all provinces and in September, 1927, addressed a letter to the various Governments in which they said:

"The present scale of contributions fixed in rule 1 was based on the average famine expenditure in the 20 years previous to 1916. The averages for a similar period ending 1925 under greatly improved conditions due to the development of irrigation and of communications and the general advance in the well being of the community as a whole indicate that a considerable reduction could be effected in the existing scale without endangering the ability of provincial finances to meet such demands for relief as now seem likely to fall upon them."

The proposals of the Government of India were scrutinised by a sub committee of the Conference in Delhi and were also fully discussed at the Conference and the unanimous opinion was that the Secretary of State should be approached to amend the Devolution Rules so that the contribution to the Fund should stand as in the following table:—

Province	Present contribution	Proposed contribution.
1	2	3
Madras	6 61	3
Bombay	63.60	15
Bengal	2	2
United Provinces	39.60	16
Punjab	3.81	2
Bihar and Orissa	11.62	2
Central Provinces	4.26	4

I may inform the house that every Provincial Government was anxious for reduced contribution so that a welcome relief may be given to their budget and expenditure may be released for other objects. I may mention that the Government of India proposed as our annual contribution to the Fund 10 lakhs and as the minimum limit of accumulations 65 Lakhs: at our request these were raised to 12 lakhs and 75 lakhs respectively. The New Rules were discussed by our Finance Committee and were approved by them before the sanction of the Secretary of State was applied for.

At the Budget session last year, the Council sanctioned an aggregate sum of 23.28 lakhs on expenditure during the current year on Back Bay. By a supplementary estimate in October 1927 a further sum of 9.6 lakhs was granted by the Council.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Mears' Committee, a representative Advisory Committee has been appointed. It is anticipated that the dredged filling of block 1 will be completed before the end of the current dredging session. Upon the advice of the Committee it is proposed to continue dredged filling next year as it is found to be considerably cheaper than dry filling.

Dry filling in Block 8 is attempted to be speeded up in order that the land may be handed over to the Military authorities as soon as possible to save interest charges; but it will not be completed by the end of May this year. A portion of the Block admeasuring 194,000 square yards has, by arrangement with the Military authorities been handed over to them in advance of the rest as recreation ground. The price thereof, viz., 20-3|4 lakhs, has been adjusted by a corresponding reduction of the loan borrowed by this Government for the Development Department during the year 1922-23.

INDUSTRIAL HOUSING.

The House is aware that a new head was opened in the current year for recording revenue receipts and expenditure of the Industrial Housing Scheme of the Development Department, as stated in the demand for a supplementary grant in October last. Up to the end of 1926-27 the accumulation of the Rupee per bale Cotton Cess enable the losses on Housing to be debited to that Fund. At the end of 1926-27 there was a balance of 1·84 lakhs which was paid into the sinking fund as a prepayment and the account closed. The balance having thus been exhausted, we shall have to draw on general revenues to the extent of 3.86 lakhs this year. The real deficit is larger by 1.49 lakhs which, but for the prepayment last year, would have been paid this year. For next year we shall have to pay from general revenues a sum of 5·05 lakhs; but this sum is also short of the true deficit by .34 lakhs which represents the balance of prepayment into the sinking fund last year. With the payment of 5·05 lakhs the total subsidy from general revenues to the Development Department will be raised to 32.55 lakhs.

In view of the slackness of demand for land, further development work is being proceeded with very cautiously.

In the Industrial Schemes at Kurla-Kirol undeveloped land measuring 152,500 square yards has been disposed of to the G. I. P. Railway for about Rs. 32,000.

KURLA-TROMBAY RAILWAY.

The Kurla-Trombay Railway has been handed over to the G.I.P. Railway.

Last year it stated in the Blue Book, that the amount of the subsidy for the Development Department, so far as the Suburban Section of its activities is concerned, was liable to change from year to year according to the forecast of the financial position of the various schemes. Judging from the rate of disposal of land and the receipts, I am afraid the subsidy of 7-1|2 lakhs will have to be raised considerably. This question has been referred to the special Advisory Committee on Suburban Schemes; and the further amount that would be required as a subsidy to the Development Department will be settled after the consideration of the matter by the Committee.

A special Committee of the House visited the Sukkur Barrage last year after the Council Sessions. They went carefully over the whole works. On behalf of the Finance Department I put at their disposal the services of the Financial Adviser Mr. Dalal. One member of the Committee has sent in his remarks to Government; but the report of the whole Committee has not yet been received. Government are awaiting it with interest. Reports from the officers show that work is progressing as well as may be expected.

The anticipated expenditure for the current year is 206.7 lakhs and is 14-1|2 lakhs more than the budgeted figure. Up to the end of 31st March 1928 we will have spent 740.8 lakhs. These figures are exclusive of interest charges which are met from capital and are as under:—

Budget 1927-28 .. 24.2 lakhs.
Revised 1927-28 .. 24.8 „
Total up to the end of 1927-28 49.6 „

The superstructure of the canal head regulators, started during 1926-27, has been carried above flood level; the remaining superstructure has been taken in hand in the current year.

The above work involves the construction and removal of cofferdams and sumps. The cofferdams on the right bank gave considerable difficulty to close, but this has been surmounted: and it is now hoped to complete both end portions of the barrage up to flood level and remove the two cofferdams by the end of May 1928. Masonry work on the Barrage proper was started in the cofferdams on the 21st of January this year.

Disposal of lands will commence, it is expected, from next year, where rectangulation operations are well advanced.

5 LAKHS MORE FOR EDUCATION.

I am happy to say that it has been found possible to provide 5 lakhs more under Education (transferred) beyond the ration claimable by that department. I wish it had been possible to provide more: for the demand, especially on account of the Primary Education Act, is insistent; but I hope the Council will recognise that there is no alternative. Indeed I must extend my regret to all departments—transferred as well as reserved.

I am specially glad that in the new items the Honourable Minister has been able to provide a small recurring sum of Rs. 9,000 as grant-in-aid for the establishment of hostels for Depressed Classes, a scheme for which has been prepared by their representatives Drs. Ambedkar and Solanki.

Government maintain a special hostel at Poona at an annual cost of Rs. 12,000 accommodating 50 boys belonging to the backward classes (I am using the term "backward" for what is generally known as depressed). No grants-in-aid are, as a rule, given towards the expenditure on the maintenance of hostels; but as a special case Government have sanctioned for the benefit of these classes grants-in-aid on certain conditions for the hostels at Poona and Parel maintanied by the Depressed Classes Mission Society. A similar grant is also sanctioned for the Hostel maintained at Nasik.

I do not think the further amount provided in the next year's budget is nearly enough; but I hope it will be welcomed as an earnest of more to come with better times.

This special provision for the education of backward classes is of course in addition to their share in the preferential facilities enjoyed by the intermediate and educationally backward classes in regard to scholarships, admission, etc., in primary and secondary Schools and arts and professional Colleges.

I should also like to draw attention to a small amount of Rs. 2,000 for Pensions to Government servants in inferior service. Under the Civil Service Regulations the maximum pension admissible was Rs. 4 per month. Since 1921, this maximum has been provisionally raised to Rs. 6 per month. So far, it was not possible to do anything more as this Government had no power in the matter. Under the new Delegation Rules each Government can regulate the conditions of service of Government servants in the Provincial and Subordinate services; and under these Rules Government have now decided to remove the limit and to grant to inferior Government servants pension equal to one-half of their pay at the time of retirement. It is estimated that the ultimate recurring cost of this measure will amount to one lakh per annum: but I am sure the House will welcome any step which improves the lot of these servants.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION IN BOMBAY.

In June, 1926, the Surgeon-General put up a scheme for the extension of the J. J. Hospital Group, in connection with the Sir Leslie Wilson Hospital Fund, costing about 29 lakhs of rupees in building and equipment spread over four years. Government shared the cost with the fund excepting a sum of Rs. 2,87,000 which was wholly borne by them as it was required for replacing existing servants' quarters. In addition to this last item Government have up to now sanctioned proposals costing 13 lakhs as Government share. These will involve a recurring liability of Rs. 3,63,000 and when the whole programme as submitted by the Surgeon General is completed in four years from the date of commencement, the recurring liability will rise to 4,34 lakhs. Government have provided 5 lakhs in the current year and 5 lakhs next year for building grants and also the necessary recurring charges amounting to Rs. 20,000.

AN OPEN SORE.

Mr. President we have budgeted for a total Revenue of 15,26 lakhs and a total expenditure charged to revenue of 15,23 lakhs leaving a small surplus of 3 lakhs not taking into account the Provincial Contribution. For the current year, the Honourable Finance Member of the Government of India in his budget speech last year, remitted the contributions from all the Provinces. So far as this Province is concerned there was a permanent remission of 19 lakhs. It is hoped that this year the rest of the 37 lakhs will be permanently remitted. If this is done, there will no longer be any contribution payable by the Provinces and the Meston Award which unduly favoured some Provinces, though it evoked strong protests from others and gave satisfaction to none, will have been carried out to the letter. To all our representations and protests for an equitable re-adjustment the answer has been that full effect must be given to the Devolution Rules until the whole question came to be reviewed by the Statutory Commission. With the contributions wiped out let us hope that the Government of India will be induced to take a juster view and that there will be no more lions roaring in the path of our Pilgrim's Progress towards our own estate.

In that suggestive little book "India to-morrow" published by the Oxford University Press last year, and written under the appropriate pseudonym "Khub Dekha Age," the Meston Settlement is described as an open sore, and is placed in the forefront of the financial problems requiring

(Continued on page 11)

COMMISSION, "NO AFFRONT" TO INDIA

(Continued from page 7.)

Member, then formally introduced the budget estimates for 1928-29 and read out his speech to a thin yet attentive house.

The House rose for the day after the Finance Member concluded his speech. It meets again to-day when general discussion will ensue on the Budget estimates.

GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

Gentlemen,—For the fifth time during my period of office as Governor of Bombay, I welcome you at the opening of the Budget Session of the Legislative Council.

The year through which we have passed since I last addressed you has been, in many ways, an important one for the Presidency, but I think I am justified in saying, and that Honourable Members will agree with me, that the most important event, dealing with occurrences outside our own domestic concerns, has been the visit to Karachi and Bombay of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Afghanistan. India was the first country outside the boundaries of his own State that His Majesty visited, and it must be a matter of keen gratification to all in the Presidency that we had the honour of being the first to welcome His Majesty on the start of his long and important foreign tour. It is also a matter of great pleasure to realise that His Majesty expressed himself so much gratified by the warmth of his reception, and by the arrangements in general which were made for Their Majesties and their party, both in Karachi and Bombay.

As usual, the main business before Council at this session of the year is the consideration of the Budget. I do not desire, in any way, to anticipate the Budget speech to be delivered by my honourable colleague the Finance Member, but there are one or two general observations I would wish to make.

SIGNS OF RENEWAL.

It is a matter of great regret that the agricultural season of the past year turned out even worse than we had expected, and, in consequence, the collections of land revenue were smaller than we have had for many years. The opening balance of the current year was therefore considerably less than we anticipated when I last addressed you. Part of the deficiency has indeed been recouped in the present year owing to very favourable rains; but this increase in the land revenue has been discounted by the continued fall in the revenue from excise and stamps. The long continued depression in trade has caused my Government much anxiety, and we welcome the signs that are at last appearing of a renewal of activity in world trade, and look forward with renewed hope that we are at last about to pass out of the slough of depression in which we have so long struggled. The current year has been marked by a calamity heavier than has befallen this Presidency for many years, namely, the floods in Gujarat and Sind, due to excessive rains and tempestuous weather.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION.

Apart from the unforeseen expenditure occasioned by this calamity, the totals of revenue and expenditure, for which we provided in the Budget, have departed little from the estimates. Our general financial position, therefore, remains much the same as last year, except that our savings in the Famine Insurance Fund and in our ordinary balances have been seriously depleted; but we trust that the major portion of the loss will, in due course, be recouped by repayment of the loans advanced for reconstruction, particulars of which will be given you by the Finance Member. It is, however, idle to pretend that our financial position is satisfactory. We have indeed, by the exercise of rigorous economy and retrenchment, managed to balance our revenue and expenditure, both in the current year and in the estimates of the next year, on the assumption that the Government of India will again be able to remit the provincial contribution. But the Budget which has been placed before you shows, if we disregard mere changes in accounting, that our total revenue has slightly fallen, while our expenditure, which, as in any normally healthy organism must be expected to grow a little year by year, has also been curtailed below the figure of the current year; and many new demands, which the departments have rightly regarded as of the utmost urgency, have perforce been omitted.

OBLIGATIONS.

There are obligations to which we are definitely committed: for example, I may refer to those under the Primary Education Act, and the additional recurring charges which will fall on the provincial revenue under the Hospital Scheme which bears my name, to meet which some expansion in our revenues is absolutely essential. In these circumstances I can only repeat what has been said so often in the past—that, unless there is a revision of the Provincial Settlement in favour of the industrial provinces, I can see little hope of the continued progress to which this province is entitled. There is nothing more disheartening than having, year after year, to exclude or to curtail necessary expenditure on services so essential to the educational. health and economic progress of the Presidency, and I sincerely trust that the day is not far distant when a fairer share of the revenues raised within our borders will be at our disposal, to enable us to provide money where it is so badly needed. In the meanwhile, it is incumbent on us to do what we can with the resources at our disposal. Bills will be placed beore you for the continuation of the Stamp duties and Court Fees which are at present in force; and the Budget has been framed on the assumption, which I earnestly hope the Council will endorse, that the Bills will be passed. The loss in revenue if the Bills are thrown out will be very considerable, and would force upon us the necessity for making further inroads into the provision for essential services.

CALAMITY IN GUJARAT.

With reference to the calamity in Gujarat and Sind of which I have made mention, this was caused, as Honourable Members are aware, by torrential rains falling at the end of July in north Gujarat, and in the southern portions of the Hyderabad and Thar Parkar Districts of Sind, and floods of an unprecedented character overwhelmed the country. It was difficult at the outset to ascertain the extent of the damage done owing to the breakdown of communications, but I am glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging that the officers of Government, of all ranks, lost no time in grasping the situation, and in doing all that they could to relieve the immediate distress; and I further take the opportunity of thanking all non-official gentlemen and organisations that contributed to this charitable work. I do not propose to enter into any detail about the remedial measures which Government have taken for the rehabilitation of the affected areas, but Honourable Members will remember the debate on the subject which took place at the seconl Poona session, when the proposals of Government were laid before the House. I desire to take this opportunity of acknowledging the fact that our proposals were welcomed as being conceived in a generous spirit, and were accepted with practical unanimity.

In connection with our schemes for relief, a Bill will be laid before you to give Government powers, similar to those under the Land Revenue Code, to recover loans for the reconstruction of houses in the areas affected from persons not holding agricultural land. I am confident that the Council, being, as it is, the guardian of the public revenues, will assist Government to pass this Bill into law during the present session, particularly as the absence of such a provision must necessarily make it more difficult for Government to give such loans so quickly or so freely.

EXTRA PROVISION.

I now come to the departments of Government which are included in the portfolios of my honourable colleagues, the Ministers. I regret that, owing to the continuance of the financial stringency which has prevailed throughout my tenure of office, less expansion has been possible in these departments than I could have wished. I can only repeat to you the advice which I gave you last year when I addressed the members of this Council, namely, that progress in these departments is impossible without funds and that the provision of adequate resources to build up and expand their work can only be obtained by taxation, which this Council alone has the power to impose, and by a re-adjustment of our financial position with the Central Government. I think, however, that any impartial critic who reviews what has been done in the past two or three years to promote the public welfare in the Pesidency, and what is proposed to be done during the coming year, will admit that, in spite of the grave financial difficulties with which my Government have had to contend, steady progress has been, and still is being made. Government have, since the passing of the Primary Education Act in 1923, made an additional allotment of nearly 24 lakhs of rupees a year for primary education in the Presidency. It has also been found possible during the current year to sanction 16 schemes of expansion under the Primary Education Act, of which four schemes are on a compulsory basis. Owing to lack of funds it has not been possible to sanction all the schemes submitted so far by the Local Authorities, but if this House passes the extra provision of Rs. 5,47,000 made in the coming year's budget for schemes under this Act, we may hope to see still further development of primary education among the masses, the urgent need for which is so generally admitted.

Two committees have recently been appointed to consider the revision of standards in secondary and primary schools, and the provision of increased facilities for physical training in these institutions, and in Colleges. I trust that their recommendations will be found to be generally acceptable, and will lead to improvements in the curricula of these institutions, and the adoption of the best forms of physical training—a subject in which I am personally very greatly interested.

I am glad to find that the special needs of the depressed classes have not been forgotton, and that the Budget contains a provision for a grant-in-aid to a scheme for hostels which has been put forward by two of the Honourable Members of this Council.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

In the Medical Department you will see that steady progress is being made in developing and expanding the Hospitals and Medical Schools in the Presidency With the aid of the Hospital Fund, it has been possible to undertake schemes for the development of the J. J. group of hospitals in Bombay which will bring them up to the standard of modern requirements, and I am grateful to the members of this Council for the manner in which they have co-operated with the Committee of the Rund in the past in providing their share of the funds, and trust that they will continue to do the same till the schemes reach completion. I should like to add that, while efforts are being made to improve the hospitals and medical schools in Bombay, the medical needs of the mofussil have not been forgotten, as will be seen from the provisions made in the Budget for the various medical institutions in the Presidency. My only regret is that, owing to the paucity of funds available, it has not been possible to do more in a field where the scope for expansion is almost limitless.

VILLAGE INDUSTRIES.

In spite of the small provision made for the Industries Department in the current year's Budget, it is satisfactory to find that provision is being made for special enquiries into the hand-weaving and tanning industries, with a view to discover the best means of assisting these two important village industries in the Presidency, which are of particular benefit towards the employment of the depressed classes. I am confident that the members of this Council will welcome the steps which are being taken to re-organise this Department which has been more or less in a state of abeyance during the past two years. In accordance with the recommendations of the Industries Committee which sat last year, provision is also being made in the Budget for the appointment of a whole-time Director, and for a Deputy Director as soon as the need for the latter appointment arises. It is true that, owing to lack of funds, the provision for this Department remains at too low a figure to enable it to function as actively as is desirable, but it is clear that the new Director will require time to look around and take stock of things before he can make definite recommendations to Government on the directions in which development should be undertaken.

BACK BAY RECLAMATION.

In accordance with the decision of the Legislative Council, taken at the Budget session in February-March 1927, the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme has now been definitely restricted to the completion of Blocks 1, 2, 7 and 8, and the linking of blocks Nos. 2 and 7 with a road and a promenade along the foreshore. During the course of the current year the work of filling Block No. 1 at the northern end with wet filling has progressed satisfactorily, and the operation of dredging into this Block is expected to be finished before the end of this season. After examining the figures of output up to date during the current year, and considering the nature of the material obtained, the Advisory Committee has recommended that dredging operations should be continued next year for the purpose of filling Block No. 2.

At the southern end of the Reclamation, all work has been concentrated on completing the murum topping of Block No. 8. A portion of this Block measuring over one lakh of square yards, which the Military authorities desired to take over in advance of the rest of the Block for the purpose of a recreation ground, was handed over to them at the end of November 1927, and the cost, amounting to nearly 21 lakhs, has been adjusted by a reduction of loan borrowed from the Government of India in 1922-23. An endeavour is being made to speed up the murum topping of the remainder of the Block, so that it may be completed as soon as possible.

IRRIGATION WORKS.

Referring briefly to the Irrigation work in the Presidency proper and Sind, Honourable Members will be glad to know that the Lloyd Dam at Bhatgar, which forms a storage lake of 24,000 million cubic feet capacity for the Nira Right and Left Bank canals, is practically completed. Good progress have been made on the Right Bank Canal Works, and irrigation has already commenced in the upper reaches.

In the south, a scheme to utilise the waters of the Markandeya River in the Gokak Taluka of the Belgaum District is under investigation; and in Gujarat, survey work in connection with the proposed storage reservoirs on the Panam and Watrak rivers and the weir across the Meshwa, to which I referred last year, is making satisfactory progress.

LLOYD BARRAGE.

Work on the Lloyd Barrage and Canals Scheme is being pushed forward vigorously. The actual construction of the Regulators for the canal heads, which form the flanks of the Barrage proper, was commenced in the autumn of 1926, and the first season's programme of permanent works on the river was carried out with complete success. Since then, much headway has been made, and the cofferdams for this season's work on the Barrage itself on both banks of the river have been completed and masonry work commenced inside. Excellent progress has also been made with excavation of the main canals and branches, and with embanking the Eastern Nara, the quantity of earthwork done to the end of December 1927 being 103 crores cubic feet, or a little less than one-fourth of the total quantity contemplated in the scheme. The construction of masonry work on the canals system has commenced, and the general progress of the work in all its branches is most satisfactory. If equally good progress can be maintained, it is hoped to commence irrigation in the new canals in 1931.

A resolution was passed by this House last year approving of theacquisition of the Sailors' Home and the plans for the New Council Hall, and recommending that the construction of the Hall should be proceeded with subject to a limit of expenditure of Rs. 8,30,000. The work has been started, and it is hoped that the Council will have its own Hall for the next Budget session.

ROAD DEVELOPMENT.

The question of road development, the need for which has been felt by Government and the public for some time past, has now become a matter of great interest all over India. Honourable Members are doubtless aware that the Government of India have appointed a Road Development Committee, which has now finished its work of examining witnesses, and we wait with interest its recommendations. It is hoped that India will, in the near future, make much progress towards securing a good net-work of roads suited to modern traffic requirements.

AVIATION.

Aviation is a branch of science in which vast and rapid strides are now being made, and this Presidency may congratulate itself on having in Karachi the first city in India to be equipped with facilities for modern commercial aviation. Besides the very large R.A.F. aerodrome at that place, a modern airship base with all up-to-date facilities is being provided. The early provision of a somewhat similar base close to Bombay is under the consideration of the authorities who deal with Civil Aviation.

THE SIMON COMMISSION.

You will naturally expect me to say something about the Statutory Commission, and I think it only right that I should do so. Within the course of this year, the Honourable Members of this House will have opportunities of discussing the question arising out of the part which the Legislative Council of Bombay will be asked to play in the work of the Commission. I notice resolutions already before Council, and I want Honourable Members to realise at once that, while it would have been possible for me to disallow such resolutions under the Legislative Council Rules, I certainly do not propose to do so, as I welcome the fullest discussion on a matter of such import to the future of India in general, and of the Presidency of Bombay in particular.

In the first place let me say that I appreciate the sincerity of those, many of whom have rendered and are still rendering great public services to India, and whose opinions must carry much weight, who have publicly expressed their opinion that the Commission is unwelcome because no Indian is a member of it. I notice that the question is often asked by them and others, whether there are no Indians fit to sit on such a Commission, so vital to the interests of India. That, I venture to say, is a question which cannot be seriously addressed to anyone with any knowledge of India or of the work of Indian politicians and statesmen who have already shown their worth in so many spheres of public life and political activity. I would suggest that any such idea in considering the personnel of the Commission should at once be put on one side, and that the real point to be considered is the appointment of the Commission from a strictly constitutonal point of view.

CONSTITUTIONAL ASPECT.

At the moment it is a fact that this great Empire of India is governed by, and in the name of, His Majesty the King-Emperor of India, which means that the Secretary of State, responsible to the British Parliament, controls all concerns relating to the government of this country. The Act of 1919, in its first clauses, very clearly states this fact. As this is so, it is obvious that any alteration in the existing system of government here can be made only by Act of Parliament, and, to enable any such alteration to be made, the British Parliament must have advice given to it as to what changes are desirable in order to advance India a further step on the road to responsible self-government, with the ultimate aim of that complete self-government which is enjoyed by other of the partners in the great commonwealth of nations we know as the British Empire. Is it, therefore, entirely unreasonable, as suggested by some, that the Houses of Lords and Commons should appoint a body representative of themselves to undertake this task? I fully realise the difficulties under which such a body would work, and the well founded criticism which would have found expression, if, at the same time, it had not been decided to associate representatives of Indian political thought with it. That, however, has been done, in the committees to be elected, if the representatives of the people in India so desire, by the Central and Provincial Legislatures.

INDIAN COMMITTEES AND COMMISSION.

I have heard one criticism to which, at this point, I should like to refer, namely, that the report of such Committees will not be, like the report of the Statutory Commission, presented direct to the House of Parliament. I do not understand why any criticism should be directed against the Commission on these grounds, for it is obvious that any Commission or Committee, whether appointed by a Corporation, an Association, or a Legislative Body would ordinarily report, in the first place, to that body which brought it into being. In the case of the report of a Legislature in India, it would be transmitted in the ordinary constitutional manner through the ordinary channels to the Secretary of State, and so to Parliament in England; and it has been decided that such a report shall receive equal consideration before the Joint Committee to be set up by the Houses of Parliament with the report and the recommendations of the Statutory Commission; and, moreover, that—and this is, to my mind most important—Parliament shall express no opinion on the report of the Statutory Commission until the Joint Committee has had an opportunity of considering both reports, both from the body set up by itself, and that elected by the Indian Legislature.

SIR JOHN'S "OFFER."

These are the facts as I see them, and, after studying very carefully the procedure proposed by Sir John Simon to be followed with regard to the close association of the Committees set up by the Indian Legislatures with the Statutory Commission, I feel sure that the proposals offer the foundations of an understanding on terms which could be acceptable to both sides; and I therefore would urge those friends of mine who are of opinion that the Commission should be boycotted to reconsider the position which they have taken up, in the best interests of the country for which they have done so much, and for which they can do so much more.

VEILED THREAT.

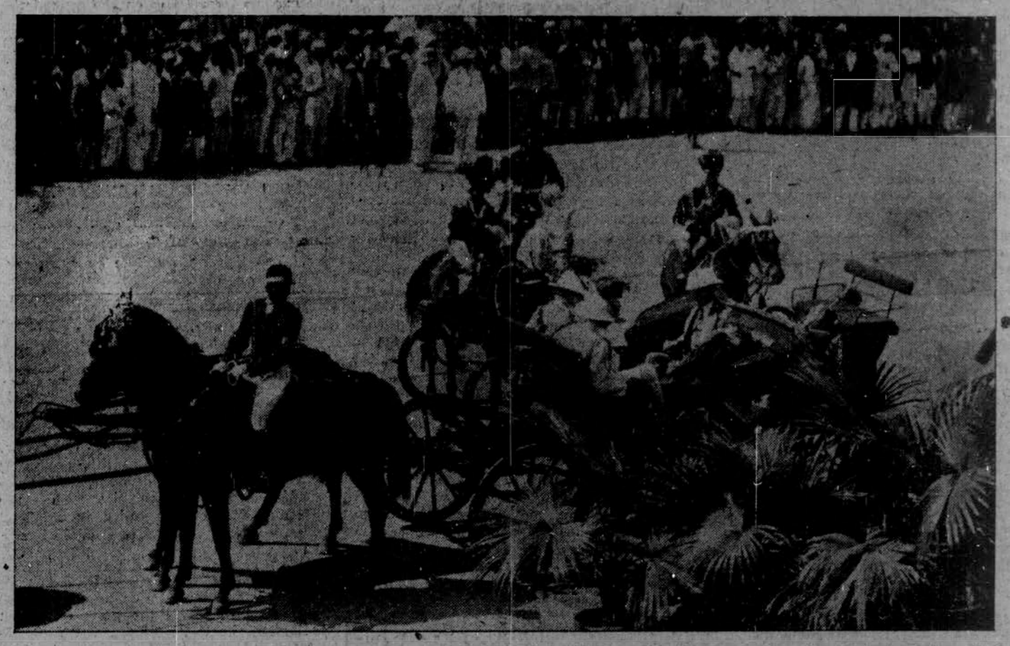
I pass now to another aspect of this question, and you will allow me to say something on this, as I can speak with some experience of Parliament. If I admit that India and the aspirations of India are misunderrtood, and are not fully realised by British politicians, I ask myself how much more will they be misunderstood if the representatives of all three political parties in Britain, appointed with the full approval of the respective leaders and following of those parties, are landicapped in their work by a decision on the part or responsible politicians in India to have nothing to do with the work for which they have been appointed? I cannot help feeling that there will be, among the British elected representatives of all parties, a feeling of keen and not unnatural disappointment—and of the effect of that feeling I confess myself anxious indeed with regard to the political advance of this country. At the risk of being personal in anything I may say, I hope you will believe that I am one who sees for India a great future under the control of Indians with such assistance as India may desire from, and which will be willingly given by, Europeans who have done so much to set her on the path of self-government. I am anxious, above all things, that the clock of progress shall not be set back—that there shall be no unnecessary obstacle placed in the way to impede that progress; but I confess that, to my mind, any such action as is contemplated by a boycott may retard the fulfilment of the natural aspirations of those with whom I am in close sympathy, and towards whose patriotic ambitions I have endeavoured, in my time out here, to give what encouragement lay in my power.

"NO AFFRONT TO INDIA".

With my knowledge of Parliament, I am fully assured myself that no sort of affront was intended to Indian sentiment, such as is suggested, and I can only express the sincere hope that it is not too late for some mutual understanding to be arrived at, which must of course be in consonance with the Constitution under which we act now, whereby the representatives of the British Parliament and the representatives of Indian political opinion can give each of their best to recommending such proposals as will have the result of evolving a Constitution satisfactory to both, and one which will advance the happiness and prosperity of the millions who live in this land.

CONCLUSION.

Gentlemen, I now leave you to the discharge of your important duties. When proroguing the second session of the Legislative Council in August 1926, I claimed—and I think with justification—that considerable progress had been made in the Presidency during the life of that Council due, in a large degree, to the work of Honourable Members themselves, who had, by fair criticism, assisted Government in its financial and statutory proposals. The work of this Council, now about a year old, encourages me to believe that the high record held by the Legislative Council of Bombay among all other such Councils in India, will not only be maintained, but strengthened, and that all members will consider, in the future as they have done in the past, the proposals of Government not with any idea of destructive opposition, but with every desire to give constructive assistance to my Honourable Colleagues, both Members and Ministers, who have but one aim—an aim which I feel sure is shared by you all—namely, to do all that is possible, even under circumstances of great financial difficulty, for the true interests of the people of the Presidency.



A view of H. E. Sir Leslie Wilson driving in State to the Town Hall on Monday to open the Budget session of the Legislative Council.

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SIR J. SIMON'S SELF-PRAISE

VIEW OF COMMISSION ALREADY CLEAR?

GRATUITOUS ADVICE TO INDIAN PRESS

CALCUTTA, Feb. 20.

Sir John Simon received press representatives at Government House this morning immediately after his arrival. Lord Burnham and Major Attlee were also present. Referring to the Assembly's "No Confidence" motion Sir John Simon said "I regard it as a misfortune that the Legislative Assembly by a narrow majority should have failed to adopt our proposal which called for collaboration. I do not think that the majority of six decides this issue for all India and for all time. We have plenty of patience, good temper and a great desire to do our best to be helpful. The Commission has its own plans and will carry through its work which will be to real advantage of India".

VIEW ALREADY CLEAR?

Reviewing the Commissions activities in India so far Sir John said "It is no good being prophetic but I have a pretty clear view of what is going to happen. I am quite content with what has happened so far". He added that the Commission was now getting a fuller appreciation of what the main problems were and where controversies were likely to arise. He emphasised the advantage of the Indian wing coming in to the joint conferences so that when the Commission returned in October they would have the help of their Indian colleagues to set to work on the basis of the memoranda and statements of various bodies and individuals. The Indian colleagues working in comradeship would also be able to see all the viewpoints placed before the Commission.

"BIDING TIME."

He added "We bide our time quite confidently. There is a great deal of statesmanship in Indian politics and we are genuinely anxious to avail ourselves of that statesmanship."—A. P.

CANVASSING SUPPORT FROM PRESS.

Viscount Burnham said that returning to India after thirty years, he was struck with the growth in size and prosperity of the Indian newspapers. The commission hoped to have a great deal of help from the Indian press. As one connected with journalism for such a long period, he hoped that even newspapers most opposed to the Commission would give accurate and correct publicity to the Commission's movements and statements. He added that there could be no greater disservice to humanity than misrepresentation or distortion of facts.—A. P.

COMMISSION ARRIVES AT CALCUTTA

CITIZENS OFFER NO DEMONSTRATIONS

CALCUTTA, Feb. 20.

In obedience to the decision of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee there was no demonstration at the Howrah Station which looked comparatively deserted when the members of the Statutory Commission alighted at 8 a.m. from the train. There was a placard at the foot of the Howrah Bridge with the words, "Go Back Simon". There was elaborate police arrangement, and the appreaches to the station were barricaded.

The office of the Commission will be located at the Imperial buildings opposite the Government House. The members of Commission will be entertained at the "Calcutta Club" to-night and to-morrow, it will grant interviews. The members are expected to leave for Madras on February 22nd.—Free Press.

CALCUTTA, Feb. 20.

Quite a large gathering, including European and Indian officials and non-officials, leading Moslems, Marwaris, Anglo-Indians and leaders of the depressed class assembled on the platform of Howrah Station when the Simon Commission arrived at Calcutta this morning. The Commissioners were accorded a cordial welcome and garlanded by representatives of various communal organisations. Thereafter they drove to Government House, where they stay until their departure for Madras on the 22nd.

ELABORATE POLICE ARRANGEMENTS

CALCUTTA, Feb. 20.

The platform gates were closed and only those who had tickets were allowed to enter. There were elaborate police arrangements at the platform and outside the station premises. No hostile demonstrations were made except the waving of solitary banner with the words "Go Back Simon" at the crossing of Harrison and Strand Roads. A little before eight o'clock Sir John Simon and other members of the Commission alighted from the special train and were welcomed by those present and garlanded by representatives of several associations.

Among those present were the Hon. Mr A. N. Moberley, the Hon. Sir P. C. Mitter, Sir Benode Mitter, the Hon. Nawab Moshraff Hossein, Mr. Gilbert Simon (son of Sir John Simon) Messrs. G. S. Dutt, District Magistrate of Howrah, W. S. Hopkyns Mackie, S. N. Mallik, N. N. Sircar, Raja Bejay Prasad Singh Dudhuria of Azimgunge, Mr. W. D. R. Prentice, Mr. Greham, Private Secretary, Colonel Butler, Military Secretary and Captain Battye A. D. C. to His Excellency the Governor, Hajee Sir Esmail Sait, Mr. H. Barton, Mr. Wallace, Major Bracho, Mr. Krishnakumar Mitter, Rai Saheb Ramdeo, Mr. P. N. Guha and Mr. B. C. Mondol (Vice-President and member respectively of the Bengal Namasudars Association), Association of the depressed classes).

The following is the Calcutta programme: Dinner at Government House on the night of Monday, dinner with Mr. Langford James on Tuesday night and a garden party at the Calcutta Club on Monday at 5 p.m.—A. P.

SIR C. P. RAMASWAMY'S PARTY TO SIR JOHN

MADRAS, Feb. 20.

Besides the dinner party which Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar and Sir Murray Coutts-Trotter are giving in Honour of Sir John Simon on the 27th the former is entertaining at tea the members of the Commission and Lady Strathcona on the 28th February at his residence. A. P.

INQUIRY IN MADRAS INQUIRY

MADRAS, Feb. 20.

The Committee of enquiry appointed by the Simon Boycott Committee commenced its sittings yesterday. Mr. Satyamurthi, Chairman of the Boycott Committee was the first witness examined. He said, that funds for committee came either from Congressmen or from those in sympathy with Congress ideals. Answering a member of the Committee Mr. Satyamurthi denied that any money came from Russia or from outside.—A. P.

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WHAT IS YOUR BIRTHDAY?

TO-DAY'S FORECAST.

(By KAM, Chela of Himalayan Joshimaharaj Joothabhai Labaddas.)

SIGN OF ZODIAC: PISCES.

If to-day is your birthday, the heavenly signs indicate that you try to pose yourself as a big gun when you are not even a child's toy-pistol. You lose sight of the fact that it takes more than a Sunday suit, or a "soodh swadeshi" khaddar suit, to make a saint. You make fuss over trifles (and also fuss "with" living trifles). The indiscretion and alleged valour of some police constables is proverbial. They watch a fray quietly from a distance, especially when they see that the wrestling Gamas and Zbyszkos are too powerful to lend any weight to the "King's representative." When all is over, and the fighters separate, bleeding and dishevelled like cocks in a prize fight, they come on the scene with all the strut and splendour of a dancing girl, and decide the fate of the fighters by Daniel's judgment! You are exactly of the mentality of such a "sipai dada", and therefore command as much (a euphemism for "as little") respect, as that street mentor does. And still you have the hardihood to complain against a hardened world which has no respect for "law and aweder"! (It is really awe-ful, isn't it?) If woman, your mental calibre is not remarkable for its breadth. You have fine looks and finer and longer locks of hair, enough to weave them into a rope to hang some fool on. But,—I am sorry to have to say, to speak the unpalatable truth—you have not as much sense and wisdom as there are in one single hair of the flowing mane of Vithalbhai Patelji. You rave much and achieve little.

MONDAY'S SESSION OF ASSEMBLY

PRESENTATION OF RY. BUDGET

DEBATE ON INCOME-TAX ACT AMENDMENT

NEW DELHI, Feb. 20.

The Legislative Assembly met this morning in an atmosphere of comparative calm with a thin attendance and sparsely occupied galleries. A few Swarajists were seen in the lobbies. Several officers of the Railway Board were in the Officers Box. The main items on the agenda are the presentation of the Railway Budget and the consideration on the Income-Tax Bill.

PANEL OF CHAIRMAN.

About a dozen Swarajists were present when Sir George Rainy presented the Budget, but withdrew after Sir George's speech. The president allowed the following to serve on the panel of the chairman:—Mr. Jinnah, Sir Darcy Lindsay, Mr. Neogy and Mr. Jayakar and the following to serve on the Public Petitions Committee: Sir Hari Singh Gour, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Dr. Suhrwardy and the Deputy President Maulvi Mohammed Yakub who would act as chairman.

There was general applause when Sir George Rainy concluded his budget speech which took up nearly an hour.

INCOME-TAX ACT.

Sir Basil Blackett then moved that the bill amending the Indian Income-Tax Act as it emerged from the Select Committee be taken up.

Sir Basil Blackett in moving the Bill said Government did not propose to press for an amendment in the new Bill. They were, no doubt, not in agreement with the Select Committee regarding Clause Seven. In this clause the Select Committee had deleted that portion which related to the exports from India on the ground that there were difficulties created by conflict of judicial rulings, and so they did not want to limit the action of the income-tax officer. Sir Basil Blackett said that Government had decided to leave the law as it was rather than move amendments which might not meet with general approval.

The Bill was then taken into consideration clause by clause

SIR VICTOR'S AMENDMENT.

Sir Victor Sassoon moved an amendment for deletion of the latter portion of clause two. The Select Committee by a majority had decided to retain the proviso inserted by Government to maintain the principle that the sphere of taxation of the Central Government should not be encroached upon by local governments or local authorities a principle which the Committee supported. He agued that if this clause was passed it was not unlikely that local bodies would continue to charge for services rendered as before as their position remined unchanged so that the Central Government would be receiving an income from the unfortunate assessee to which they were not in equity entitled.

BROAD PRINCIPLE.

As a broad principle, that payment for services rendered was a deductable item was not disputed. The amount in question was about one and three-fourth lakhs but Sir Basil should waive the right for this windfall and not sacrifice the principle of equity by passing the Clause. The Assembly would be laying down a new principle that the innocent might justifiably be punished for the misdeeds of the guilty.

The arguments of Sir Victor Sassoon were endorsed by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas (another signatory to the minority report) who emphasised that income-tax should be on the net income of the company.

Sir Basil Blackettt said the verdict in Select Committee was for the clause being retained. The clause had worked well for forty years.

Sir Walter Willson supported the amendment for the deletion.

AMENDMENT NEGATIVED.

Mr. K. C. Roy opposed the amendment. It was defeated by 38 votes to 35.

Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Iyengar was the only Sawrajist present and he voted for the deletion.

NEW DELHI, Feb. 20.

Sir Basil Blackett speaking first after lunch replied to Sir Victor Sassoon arguments which he said were calculated to mislead the Assembly.

Mr. Cocke supported the amendment which was put and lost.—A. P.

NABHA "INTERNMENT"

ADJOURNMENT MOTION IN ASSEMBLY

NEW DELHI, Feb. 20.

In the Legislative Assembly to-morrow, Sardar Gulab Singh, Swarajist, according to a Congress Party decision, will move an adjournment in connection with the "internment", as it is called in unofficial circles, of the ex-Maharaja of Nabha.—A. P.

TEA GARDEN SHARES STRONGEST AND SAFEST INVESTMENT.

Strongest and safest investment now-a-days is only in Tea Shares. On the average during the last five years cotton and jute industries have managed to declare a dividend of only 15% while the Tea Companies in India declared dividend ranging from 15% to 350% (average 80%). The following table will show the paid up capital in the four principal industries in India:—

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Jute Mills	Rs. 20,71,01,460/-
Coal Mines	Rs. 14,57,61,720/-

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The Company is a promising one. New Nurseries are being prepared with the best Manipuri seeds of Messrs. Planters Stores & Agency Ltd. The Management have proposed to complete 300 acres at the end of 1929. Any one willing to purchase shares of the Company may apply to Messrs. Aryan Planters Agency, 219, Bow Bazar St., Calcutta.

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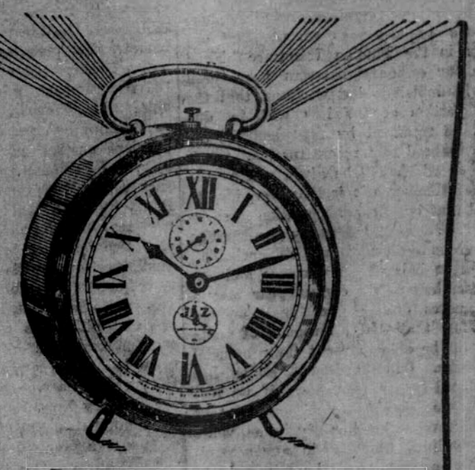

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DATE OF DEPARTURE NOT YET SETTLED

THREE MEN FROM NASIK JOIN TUKOJI RAO'S PARTY

STRICT SECRECY ABOUT CONVERSION.

BANGALORE, Feb. 20.

The date of the departure of Tukoji Rao, the ex-Maharajah of Indore is not yet settled. Strict secrecy is being observed by the party which is staying at the West End Hotel under the name of "Mr. Biot and Party." The party has been augmented by the arrival of three men from Nasik to-day.

It is believed that the conversion of Miss Miller is being discussed with them in all its bearings but strict injunctions against leakage have been given. The rumour that the ceremony will take place at Bangalore is discredited.—A. P.

NASIK DHANGAR SAMAJ FAVOURS CONVERSION

NASIK Feb. 19.

The Nasik Dhangar Samaj seems to favour the conversion of Miss Miller, to Hinduism. From a telegram received by that Samaj from the ex-Maharajah of Indore it appears that the latter prefers that the conversion ceremony of Miss Miller should be performed under the auspices of his own community with the sanction of Jagatguru Sri Sankaracharya (Dr. Kurtkoti).

Representatives of the Dhangar Samaj have already left Nasik for Bangalore in response to a call contained in the above-mentioned telegram from the ex-Maharajah.—A. P.

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY TO NABHA

Mr. F. J. Ginwala, President of the Dadar Congress Committee has sent the following telegram to the ex-Maharajah of Nabha who is now interned at Kodaikanal:—

"Deeply sympathise in your sufferings for country. Heartily congratulate you for your bold manly stand."

INTERDICT TO NABHA

HOW HE WAS TAKEN AWAY

ALLAHABAD, Feb. 19.

"The Pioneer" giving details of the detention of Mr. Ripudaman Singh (Ex-Maharaja of Nabha) at Allahabad station says that he had looked five berths for Lucknow and was entering his carriage when he was approached by a Police Officer and invited to go outside the station. He was later driven off in a motor car, and then taken by train "to an unknown destination."—A. P.

LORD IRWIN OPENS CHAMBER OF PRINCES

NEW DELHI, Feb. 20.

Lord Irwin opened the Chamber of Princes this morning. Forty princes and numerous political officers are attending the session. The proceedings are not open to the press.—A. P.

HOSTEL FOR PARSI STUDENTS

BORDI HIGH SCHOOL

(From a Cofrespondent).

BORDI, Feb. 15.

The Soonabai Pestonji Hakimji High School has started a special section of the hostel for Parsi Boys under the supervision of a capable and experienced Parsi Teacher of the High School. Many of the villages and towns of the coastal parts of the Thana and Surat Districts are inhabited by Parsis; and they might be inconvenienced as regards the schooling of their boys for want of any residential School between Bombay and Surat and to meet the educational need of a large section of Parsees this school has been started.

Mr. Ardeshir Sagarji Kallyainwala has given a donation of Rs. 200/ in the memory of his departed daughter Mrs. Tehmina Bomansha Sidhwa, and Mr. R. D. Chawdhari has given a donation of Rs. 51 to the High School in the sacred memory of his departed mother Mrs. Chimoobai Damodar Chawdhari.

G. I. P. WORKERS UNION

CENTRE FORMED AT JHANSI

(From Our Correspondent.)

JHANSI, Feb. 15.

On Monday evening Mr. Jhabvala, the General Secretary of the G.I.P. Railway Employees' General Union, visited Jhansi from Bina on his way to Itarsi and Bhusawal, and delivered a stirring address on Unionism. Mr. Dhulekar, M.A., LL.B., presided. Mr. Jhabvala said the Employers and Government, were a hopeless institution. The best reply that the men could give was by organising with a view to collective withdrawal of Labour. "If," said Mr. Jhabvala, "you could all join my Union, all to a man, there would be no need to declare a strike at all. The very membership would be enough." Jhansi had 7,000 workers in all and if they assisted the General Union, they would form the very back-bone of the above Union.

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TRIBUTE TO MAHATMA AND HIS FOLLOWERS

(Continued from page 8.)

attention in an enquiry into constitutional reforms. It may become a thing of the past; but with its extinction will not pass away the inequalities which it was designed to redress. Let us hope that the anomaly pointed out by the author, of the Central Government drawing so large a proportion of its financial resources from two of the Provinces, will be remedied. It is only by recognising that this Province had not a clean slate to write upon that a true appreciation will be made of its difficulties and of its wants. A just division of resources will then be possible which will enable her to free herself from the strangling bonds of stagnation and to release funds for all those nation-building activities which are clamouring to go forward and on which true progress will depend.

NATIONAL ART EXHIBITION

MR. NARIMAN'S APPRECIATION

Since the last "Makar Sankrant" an interesting and instructive Exhibition of attractive fine art has been opened by Mrs. Saraswatibai Balwantrao Ovalekar in her drawing rooms in the Bungalow at Chendini Thana. Hundreds of people from Bombay and its suburbs have witnessed the same and have highly appreciated the work. Mrs. Saraswatibai Balwantrao Ovalekar has by her industrious habits shown to her sisters how leisure of time can be properly utilised. The most remarkable feature of the exhibition is that she has arranged her fine art productions in such manner as to impress upon the minds of the visitor that fine art things can be prepared with all their beauty and attractiveness from Swadeshi goods.

On 1st February 1928 a meeting was held at Thana to congratulate Mr. K. F. Nariman the Backbay-hero, and to boycott the "Simon Commission". It was also arranged for Vir Vamanrao and Mr. K. F. Nariman to visit the above exhibition and on arrival were accordingly received at the exhibition by Mrs. Saraswatibai Ovalekar, founder of the exhibition, Mr. Bhagwantrao Padhye, President of Thana Municipality and Congress Executive Committee Thana and Mr. D. S. Baigpail Secretary, Congress Committee, Thana.

Messrs. Nariman and Vamanrao who were accompanied by Messrs Patkare and Mhatre, Joint Editors of "Kshatriyavritta," closely and inquiringly saw the beautiful exhibition and expressed great satisfaction at the get up of things by Mrs. Saraswatibai. It is really worthwhile noting that these things are prepared by Mrs. Saraswatibai in her leisure time out of Stuff which we throw as condemned and useless. Mr. Nariman further expressed his opinion that Mrs. Saraswatibai is really gifted by God in this National art and further congratulated her when he knew that all the artistic things in the Exhibition were prepared by herself without the help of anybody.

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RELIEF AT LAST!

WINDFALL IN RAILWAY BUDGET

REDUCTIONS IN THIRD CLASS FARES

CHEAPER PARCEL AND LUGGAGE RATES

ACQUISITION OF BURMA RAILWAYS.

The Railway budget for the year 1928-29 was introduced by Sir George Rainey in the Legislative Assembly and Sir Austen Hadow in the Council of State. Sir George Rainy claimed that it was his first maiden effort at budget making, which not only showed a record year for traffic, but also announced substantial reductions in rates and fares.

The final result of 1927-28 is expected to be a gain of just over twelve and three-quarters crores from the working of commercial lines, nearly three and three quarters crores more than in 1926-27. It is proposed to distribute this surplus as follows: One and two-thirds crores will be taken to meet the anticipated loss on strategic lines; six hundred and thirty-six lakhs, or eighty-eight lakhs more than the budget assumed, will be contributed to general revenues; and just less than four and three-quarters crores will be placed to reserve. At the end of the year the reserve is expected to stand at sixteen crores as a result of four years' working since railway finances were separated from general finances, and a balance of over nine and a quarter crores is expected in the depreciation fund.

In view of their strong financial position, the Railway Board announce their intention of making large reduction in third class passenger fares, parcel rates, and rates for certain commodities on State-managed railways with the special intention of stimulating long distance traffic. Third class passenger fares will be reduced by half a pie per mile for all distances over fifty miles on North Western, East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways; and discussions with the Company-managed railways for reduction on their lines are forecasted. A reduction of fifteen per cent. in parcel and luggage rates accompanied by a more satisfactory scale of charge, is proposed. The commodities selected for reductions in rates on the State-managed railways are kerosine oil, manures and oil cake, jagree and petrol, the reduction over long distances amounting sometimes to as much as fifty per cent. The rates for grains and pulses are also being lowered over some distances on the East Indian and North Western Railways. Anomalies in the rates charged on goods despatched between the area covered by the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway and the other parts of the East Indian Railway system will be removed at a cost of about thirty-three lakhs, and the terminal charge on through booking on the East Indian Railway will be reduced by one-half. Finally, reductions are proposed in the charges for carrying horses, live-stock and motor-cars on the State-managed railways.

Sir George Rainy explaining the progress made in Indianisation showed that Indians were likely to obtain 70 per cent. of the appointments on State-managed Railways this year thereby rapidly reaching the Lee recommendation. The recruitment of temporary engineers in England had been stopped.

AMBITIOUS PROJECTS AHEAD.

The following are extracts from the Speech by the Hon. Sir Austen Hadow, Chief Commissioner of Railways, in presenting the Railway Budget for 1928-29 in the Council of State, yesterday:—

I rise to present to the Council a statement of the estimated expenditure and revenue of the Governor-General-in-Council for the year 1928-29 in respect of railways.

As an introduction to a more detailed explanation of the budget I think it is desirable that I should give a brief description of our railway property in order to present a more comprehensive picture to the Council and will quote a few figures. At the commencement of this financial year i.e., on April 1st, 1927, our mileage of railways opened to public traffic was 39,049, which means that in the year 1923-27, 421 miles of new lines were added to our previous total. Of this total the State owned 28,004 miles, Companies and District Boards 6,001, and Indian States 5,044 miles. The capital at charge of the State-owned railways on the same date was 701 crores out of a total capital of 789 crores. There was a reduction in the mileage of railways owned by Companies and District Boards in that year, this being due to the purchase by the State of the Delhi-Umbala-Kalka Railway, which was effected in the year 1926-27. By the end of March next, that is the end of this financial year, it seems likely that the total mileage of railways in India will have risen to close on 40,000. I shall deal more at length with our new construction programme presently.

As a preliminary, I will refer to the final results for the year 1926-27. A year ago, when the Budget for the current year was put forward, it was anticipated that it would be necessary to withdraw 7 lakhs from the reserve in order to pay the contribution to General Revenues. The last few weeks of the financial year 1926-27, however, gave us unexpectedly good earnings; as a result of this, and of large saving in working expenses, as compared with our revised estimate, we were able not only to fulfil our obligations to the General Revenues without drawing upon our reserves but were able to add to our reserve fund about 1-1/2 crores of rupees, bringing that fund up to a total of well over 11 crores. I should like to invite the attention of the members of this house to the Report on Indian Railways for the year 1926-27 which was lately been published, which contains much matter for thought and study by those who have leisure and desire to understand something of the activities of the Railway Board apart from the intricacies of the Budget.

REVISED ESTIMATE, 1927-28.

After a disappointing year in 1926-27 which, in spite of a bright finish, yielded total gross receipts about half a crore less than the previous year, the current year has shown very much improved results. Throughout the year, so far, except for four weeks in July and August when the railways in Guzerat and Orissa were seriously affected by floods, our earnings have been consistently higher than last year, and all descriptions of traffic have contributed to the improved results. We still have a few weeks of the current financial year to run, but on the latest information available it is anticipated that our gross receipts from commercial lines will amount to nearly 103-1/2 crores as compared with 100 crores, the figure anticipated in the Budget for the current year which was prepared twelve months ago. This figure of 103-1/2 crores for gross receipts from commercial lines compares with a figure of 98-1/2 crores for the year 1926-27, an increase of 5 crores, and is a considerably higher figure than our previous record year Rs. 99.96 crores in 1924-25.

As already stated the increase is well spread over all descriptions of traffic, and it is, moreover, shown in the results of almost every individual railway, in fact there is only one railway, the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway, which does not show an appreciable development of traffic. For the first seven months of the year, that is up to the end of October last, we carried 361 million passengers or 7-1/2 million more than in the same period of the previous year: the corresponding figure for passenger miles, 12,050 millions is an increase of 6 per cent on the previous year. This increase can no doubt be partly attributed to the stimulus given by certain reductions in fares in the last 2 years. Under goods traffic there was an increase of nearly 400 million ton miles in these first seven months, and for the full year it is anticipated that the increase will be 700 million ton miles over 1926-27. The improvement appears under nearly all commodities as shown by the figures of wagons loaded, some particulars of which will be found in the Budget Memorandum.

Turning to working expenses it will be seen that our working expenses are expected to exceed those of 1926-27 by Rs. 3 lakhs only in spite of the large increase of traffic.

We have an equally welcome reduction in operating costs to show. Here I think it is sufficient to mention a reduction of nearly half a crore in the cost of fuel. This is of course to a considerable extent due to the fall in the price of coal but it is also to be attributed to the effect of the measures which we have taken in recent years to secure more economical coal consumption. Of our other charges I need only mention in this brief review a rise of 152 lakhs in interest due of course to the large capital expenditure which we are now incurring on the improvement and expansion of Indian State Railways.

We arrive then at an anticipated total of 90 crores 67 lakhs for the total charges, and in the result the Revised Estimate shows that the difference between the gross receipts and total expenditure on commercial lines for the whole year 1927-28 is expected to yield a net gain of 12-372 crores or nearly 4 crores in excess of the Budget, and that after deducting the loss on working strategic lines and paying the required contribution of Rs. 6.36 crores to General Revenues we shall be able to add a sum of nearly 4.3/4 crores to our Reserve Fund. If these anticipations are realised, we shall have a total of over 16 crores in our Reserve Fund at the end of this financial year as well as a total of 9 crores or so in our Depreciation Fund, and we, therefore, considered it incumbent on us to take stock of our position.

REDUCTION IN RAILWAY FARES.

We anticipated some months ago that we might be able to face the initial loss of making some reductions in rates and fares, and consequently the ground had been prepared by making a preliminary investigation last August in order to determine the general lines that should be followed. More recently the matter has been examined in more detail, and our conclusions will be found in the Budget memorandum. It will be recognised that discrimination was necessary because we could not at once afford an all round reduction and had to determine in what directions the first benefit should be given. I will now mention briefly the reductions we are making. First there is our friend and good client the third class passenger: he will be saved 1-1/2 a pie per mile on journeys of over 50 miles on the East Indian, North Western and Great Indian Peninsula Railways. There are certain Company-worked railways also, which we hope may be prepared to effect some reductions in fares, but the negotiations with them will at any rate delay their introduction somewhat. This, with the abolition of the distinction in Intermediate and Third class fares between mail and ordinary train, which will be effected on the East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways, is estimated to cost us 122 lakhs on a full year with the existing traffic, but I hope a large increase in travelling will be the response to this reduction. Next affecting our receipts from other coaching traffic, we propose to take in hand the present parcels and luggage rates, which are very much higher than they were at the end of the war. These are to be reduced by about 15 per cent., and the method of charging is also to be changed to the advantage of the trade, and we hope particularly of the retail trader. A revised scale for horses, live stock and motor cars is worth mentioning, especially as the big Delhi Horse Show is fresh in all our minds, as an example of the effect of this I may say, that, whereas it would cost Rs. 118 to bring a horse to Delhi from Sargoda under the existing scale, it will only cost Rs. 88-8-0 under the new scale. Then there are very substantial reductions of rates for kerosine oil manures and oil cake, jaggree, petrol, as well as certain reductions on the East Indian and North Western railways for grains, pulses and seeds, and the removal of certain anomalies in rates which have existed on the enlarged East Indian Railway system since the old Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway was made a part of it. The commodities mentioned are those selected as most likely to respond quickly to a reduction in rates: it is clear that this is the criterion from which to judge whether present rates tend to hinder the development of traffic, and our first aim has been to reduce such rates. The most important of these are the reduction on kerosine oil and the removal of anomalies in rates on the enlarged East Indian Railway system: the latter is estimated to take away 33 lakhs from our earning but is clearly the right thing to do. It has been calculated that these reductions in rates and fares taken together would cost us over 5 crores on a full year's working if we failed to obtain from them the increased business which we confidently expect.

BUDGET ESTIMATE, 1928-29.

If we turn now to our anticipations for next financial year, it will be seen from the tabular statement in paragraph 26 of the Memorandum that, as compared with our estimated total receipts of just under 103-1/2 crores in 1927-28, we have assumed receipts of under 103-1/4 crores next year. That figure is arrived at as follows. It has been estimated that, if we were not to reduce rates and fares as we propose, these total receipts in 1928-29 might amount to 105.19 crores, calculating on a rather smaller increase of earnings than the average because 1927-28 has been such a favourable year. From this total then we must deduct a figure representing the effect which the reduction I have just mentioned, will have on our earnings of next year. I have said that on a full year, the reduction of earnings would amount to 3 crores, if no immediate development followed on them, but, although some of the reductions can be introduced with immediate effect, there are others of which due notice will have to be given and they hardly come into force before June next. Allowing for this and for the expectation that some of the loss will be quickly made good by the stimulus that will be afforded to travelling and to trade, we have assumed that our net loss in 1928-29 will be about 2 crores. We have, therefore, estimated in the Budget for gross receipts from commercial lines of 103.19 crores.

LOSS ON STRATEGIC LINES.

Turning now to our estimate of expenditure, next year, we have put this at a little over 92 1/2 crores as compared with 90 2/3 crores in the current year. Working expenses are practically identical in total with the current year, a the only important increase in expenditure over 1927-28 is under interest charges, which go up by 1 1/2 crores owing to the expansion of capital. As regards working expenses, it is worth mentioning that an increase of 1/2 crore in payments to the Depreciation Fund due to increased capital assets, and a small increase under Administration will, we hope, be both covered by further economies in repairs and maintenance. Although we expect to carry more traffic, we anticipate that the operation expenses of transportation can be kept down to slightly below our Revised Estimate for the current year.

As regards strategic lines, there is little to say; we hope for a small increase in gross traffic receipts and anticipate that the net loss in working these lines, which has to be borne by General Revenues, will be slightly less than in the current year.

To sum up briefly, then the Budget shows a drop of 24 lakhs in gross receipts as compared with our Revised Estimate for the current year, an increase in expenditure of 188 lakhs, nearly all due to expanding interest charges and a larger provision for depreciation, giving a surplus from commercial lines of rather more than 10 1/2 crores. Out of this estimated surplus over 1 1/2 crores will be used to meet an anticipated loss on strtegic lines, our contribution to General Revenues will be about 5 1/2 crores and, if our anticipations are approximately correct, there will be a balance of 3 1/2 crores to credit to the railway reserve.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, 1927-28.

I turn now to our Capital Budget. Our capital expenditure during the current year is expected to amount to Rs. 30 crores, as compared with a Budget figure of 25 crores. Perhaps I ought to explain that, although twelve months ago it was estimated that the capital expenditure would be 25 crores, railway administrations were allowed to include works involving expenditure of 39 3/4 crores in 1927-28 in their approved programmes.

This latter figure was what they had asked for, but in the light of the experience of the previous years, we believed that the spending capacity of our organisation would limit their progress to the Budget figure of 25 crores. Since the advantages to be expected from the works in question will not be realised until they are completed, it is satisfactory to be able t oreport that railway administrations now seem likely to make better progress than was anticipated. Of the total figure of 30 crores shown in the Revised Estimate, about 21 1/4 crores represent the probable amount to be spent on open line works and rolling stock, and 8 3/4 crores on new lines, the latter figure being nearly 2 crores over the amount spent on new lines in 1926-27.

As regards new lines, I have mentioned that by the end of March, we expect our open mileage of railways in India to approach the figure of 40,000, that is, an increase of over 900 miles during the current year. But this new mileage is not entirely on the State Railways, as something like one-third of it will have been constructed at the cost of Indian States and others. The latter includes the important north to south connection in His Exalted Highness the Nizam's territory from Balharshah to Kazipet, which will shorten very appreciably the distance of the journey from Madras to Delhi and the north of India; some portions of this connection are already open, and it is hoped that the remainder will be opened by the end of this financial year.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, 1928-29.

Though Railway Adminisrtations have, as I have said, made better progress this year than we anticipated, they have still a large number of works uncompleted, and we want them to spend next year very largely in pushing on with these works, so that the capital employed in them may quickly become productive. For reasons I have given, there are in our programme only a very few large schemes which we find it necessary to commence in 1928-29, the only individual new project which I think it necessary to mention here, being the reconstruction of Erode station on the South Indian Railway. The large electrification schemes in progress in the vicinity of Bombay are responsible for nearly all the expenditure, over 2 crores, allotted under the head electrification, but it has recently been decided to electrify the South Indian Railway suburban services in Madras, so a small provision is made for the commencement of that work.

NEW PROJECTS.

Of these new lines which are already in progress, one of the most important, which has been known as the Central India Coalfields Railway and links up Daltonganj with the western end of the South Karanpura line at Barkakhana, is expected to be opened next year, and I hope also the branch from Anuppur to Karimati, which will eventually be linked up with the former, though this is not proposed immediately. Other lines of some importance which will, I hope, be opened throughout in 1928-29 are the Villupuram-Trichinopoly (108 miles) and the Dindigul Pollachi (75 miles) in South India, and a part at least of the Kangra Valley Railway. The Assam Bengal, Eastern Bengal and other railways have been busy with short branches, and a number of these are likely to be opened next year. Other projects of major importance, which are in hand but will not progress quickly enough to be opened next year, are the Calcutta Chord Railway including the bridge over the Hooghly at Bally, the Lucknow-Sultanpur-Jaunpur, the Chiniot-Khushab cross connection in the Punjab, the Kotabagh Bridge at Mari Indus, the Raipur Vizianagram, the Sagaing Bridge and Minbu-Pakokku project in Burma both recently sanctioned, and the Trichinopoly-Manamadura Chord in South India.

It may be of interest to some members of this Council to hear about the two main trunk routes, which were referred to a year ago, namely, the Bombay-Sind and Agra-Karachi connections. As regards the former, investigations are now well on towards completion, and we now have two senior officers working directly under us on a re-examination of the cost and prospects of the latter. Until we have arrived at a better appreciation of the advantages to be obtained from the construction of either of these links, we have considered it premature to enter them in our construction programme, for both of them are dependent for their financial justification on the development of long distance traffic, a large proportion of which will be taken from lines already in existence.

PURCHASE OF BURMA RAILWAYS.

There is one every important figure in the Capital Budget to which I have not yet referred, namely, an item of 4 crores for the purchase of the Burma Railways. Notice has recently been given to the Burma Railways Company of the termination of their contract, and the system will come under State management from 1st January 1929. It has been estimated that as a result of the purchase, we shall increase our net annual revenue by about half a crore.

STATE RAILWAY ACTIVITIES.

As I explained at the beginning of my speech, four of the principal railway systems, including the two largest, are under direct State management, while the State owing to its financial interests has to take a considerable part in the control of all or practically all the other important lines. The results of that management during the year, which is coming to a close, and our forecast of what the result should be, if fortune is ordinarily kind to us, next year, are now before the Council. I hope the Council will admit that they prove Indian State Railways to be a live organisation, alive to the need for development of railway communications, alive in the introduction of modern improvements in their workshops, and ready to adopt any changes in operating methods or in standards which are likely to make for efficiency and economy both. They have been enabled and encouraged to follow this forward policy by the greater freedom which they now enjoy in managing their own finances; for this greater freedom they have the separation of railway finances from general finances to thank.

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